

**SHEARMAN & STERLING LLP**

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*Counsel to Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC*

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

	X	
	:	Chapter 11
In re	:	
	:	Case No. 23-10367 (MG)
SVB FINANCIAL GROUP, <sup>1</sup>	:	
	:	
Debtor.	:	
	:	
	X	

**NOTICE OF HEARING ON MOTION OF MORGAN  
STANLEY & CO. LLC FOR ORDER GRANTING LEAVE  
TO FILE LATE PROOF OF CLAIM PURSUANT TO  
BANKRUPTCY RULES 3003(c) AND 9006(b)(1)**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that on the date hereof, Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC (“Morgan Stanley”) filed the *Motion of Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC for Order Granting Leave to File Late Proof of Claim Pursuant to Bankruptcy Rules 3003(c) and 9006(b)(1)* (the “Motion”). The undersigned counsel will present the Motion to the Honorable Martin Glenn, United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York (the “Bankruptcy Court”) at a hearing to be held on **April 9, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. (Prevailing Eastern Time)** (the “Hearing”).

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<sup>1</sup> The last four digits of SVB Financial Group’s tax identification number are 2278.

**PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that any responses or objections (the “Objections”) to the Motion shall conform to the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure and the Local Rules for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York and shall be filed with the Court in accordance with the customary practices of the Court and General Order M-399. Objections must be filed and received no later than **April 2, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. (Prevailing Eastern Time)** (the “Objection Deadline”) and must be served on the following parties: (a) counsel to Morgan Stanley, Shearman & Sterling LLP, 599 Lexington Avenue New York, NY 10022, Attn: Daniel Lewis (daniel.lewis@shearman.com); and (b) to the extent not listed herein, those parties requesting notice pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 2002 and the *Order Establishing Case Management Procedures* [Doc. No. 131] entered on April 27, 2023.

**PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that only those Objections that are timely filed, served and received will be considered at the Hearing. Failure to file a timely Objection may result in the entry of an order granting the relief requested in the Motion without further notice. Failure to attend the Hearing in person or by counsel may result in relief being granted or denied upon default. In the event that no Objection to the Motion is timely filed and served, the relief requested in the Motion may be granted without a hearing before the Court.

**PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that the Hearings will take place in a hybrid fashion both in person and via Zoom for Government. Those wishing to participate in the Hearings in person may appear before the Honorable Martin Glenn, Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge, in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York, in Courtroom No. 523, located at One Bowling Green, New York, New York 10004-1408. For those wishing to participate remotely, in accordance with General Order M-543 dated March 20, 2020, the Hearings will be conducted remotely using Zoom for Government. Parties wishing to appear at or listen to

the Hearings, whether (a) an attorney or non-attorney, (b) making a “live” or “listen only” appearance before the Court, or (c) attending the hearing in person or via Zoom, **all need to register an electronic appearance (an “eCourtAppearance”)** through the Court’s website at <https://ecf.nysb.uscourts.gov/cgi-bin/nysbAppearances.pl>. When making an eCourtAppearance, parties must specify whether they are making a “live” or “listen only” appearance. Electronic appearances (eCourtAppearances) need to be made by **4:00 p.m. Prevailing Eastern Time on the business day before the relevant hearing.**

**PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that due to the large number of expected participants in the Hearings and the Court’s security requirements for participating in a Zoom for Government audio and video hearing, all persons seeking to attend the Hearings remotely **must connect to the relevant hearing beginning one hour before the applicable hearing time on the relevant hearing date.** When parties sign in to Zoom for Government and add their names, they must type in the first and last name that will be used to identify them at the Hearings. Parties that type in only their first name, a nickname, or initials will not be admitted into the Hearings. When seeking to connect for either audio or video participation in the Hearings via Zoom for Government, you will first enter a “Waiting Room” in the order in which you seek to connect. Court personnel will admit each person to the Hearings from the Waiting Room after confirming the person’s name (and telephone number, if a telephone is used to connect) with their eCourtAppearance. Because of the large number of expected participants, you may experience a delay in the Waiting Room before you are admitted to the Hearings. Further instructions on participating in the hearing via Zoom for Government are available on the Court’s website at <https://www.nysb.uscourts.gov/zoom-video-hearing-guide>.

**PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that a copy of the pleadings filed in this chapter

11 case may be obtained free of charge by visiting the website of Kroll Restructuring Administration LLC, at <https://restructuring.ra.kroll.com/svbfg/Home-DocketInfo>. You may also obtain copies of the pleadings filed in this chapter 11 case by visiting the Court's website at <http://www.nysb.uscourts.gov> in accordance with the procedures and fees set forth therein.

Dated: March 15, 2024  
New York, New York

**SHEARMAN & STERLING LLP**

/s/ Daniel Lewis

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*Counsel to Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC*



**Objection Deadline: April 2, 2024**  
**Hearing Date: April 9, 2024**

**SHEARMAN & STERLING LLP**

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*Counsel to Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC*

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

	X	
	:	Chapter 11
In re	:	
	:	Case No. 23-10367 (MG)
SVB FINANCIAL GROUP, <sup>1</sup>	:	
	:	
Debtor.	:	
	:	
	X	

**MOTION OF MORGAN STANLEY & CO. LLC FOR ORDER GRANTING  
LEAVE TO FILE LATE PROOF OF CLAIM PURSUANT TO  
BANKRUPTCY RULES 3003(c) AND 9006(b)(1)**

Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC (“Morgan Stanley”), hereby submits this motion (the “Motion”) pursuant to Rules 3003(c)(3) and 9006(b)(1) of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the “Bankruptcy Rules”) for entry of an order extending, *nunc pro tunc*, Morgan Stanley’s time to file a proof of claim in the above-captioned chapter 11 case (the “Chapter 11 Case”) of SVB Financial Group (the “Debtor”) despite passage of the bar date in the Chapter 11

<sup>1</sup> The last four digits of SVB Financial Group’s tax identification number are 2278.

Case on August 11, 2023 (the “Bar Date”).<sup>2</sup> In support of the Motion, Morgan Stanley respectfully states as follows:

### **PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

1. In the aftermath of the closure of Silicon Valley Bank (“SVB”), several securities class action complaints were filed, including one that named Morgan Stanley as a defendant for its role as an underwriter in two securities offerings by the Debtor. *See City of Hialeah Employees Retirement System v. Becker*, No. 3:23-cv-01697-JD (N.D. Cal. filed Apr. 7, 2023). A claim in respect to Morgan Stanley’s claims related to its contribution rights and its indemnification rights under the relevant underwriting agreements was filed prior to the Bar Date.<sup>3</sup> Under the Original Claim Morgan Stanley reserved the right to amend or supplement the Original Claim with respect to matters related to the securities offerings.

2. Now, almost one year after SVB’s collapse, Morgan Stanley was named as a defendant in a new lawsuit that alleges misrepresentations by the Debtor in connection with its acquisition of Boston Private Financial Holdings, Inc. (“Boston Private”).<sup>4</sup> Substantively identical claims were filed against other defendants—but not Morgan Stanley—on April 14, 2023.<sup>5</sup> It is not surprising that Morgan Stanley was not named in that earlier-filed lawsuit because the theory of liability now being advanced against Morgan Stanley almost one year later—that it should face underwriter liability because it acted as a financial advisor to Boston Private—is unprecedented.

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<sup>2</sup> *See Order Establishing Deadlines for Filing Proofs of Claim and Approving Form and Manner of Notice Thereof* [ECF 373].

<sup>3</sup> *See* claim number 1032 filed by Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC on behalf of, among others, Morgan Stanley (the “Original Claim”).

<sup>4</sup> *See Stephen Rossi v. Anthony Dechellis, et al.*, Complaint for Violations of the Securities Act of 1933, Super. Court of the State of Cal. Cty. of Santa Clara, February 15, 2024 (the “2024 Complaint,” attached as **Exhibit B**).

<sup>5</sup> *See Stephen Rossi v. Greg W. Becker, et al.*, Complaint for Violations of the Securities Act of 1933, Super. Court of the State of Cal. Cty. of Santa Clara, April 14, 2023 (the “2023 Complaint,” attached as **Exhibit C**).

Indeed, guidance recently issued by the SEC explains why this theory of liability has no merit whatsoever.<sup>6</sup> Nevertheless, in the event Morgan Stanley is found liable in the new lawsuit, it will have contribution claims against the Debtor. Moreover, the Debtor has an obligation to indemnify Morgan Stanley for the claims asserted in the new lawsuit pursuant to the financial advisory engagement letter between Morgan Stanley and Boston Private dated December 31, 2020 (the “Engagement Letter”), which incorporates the indemnification agreement between Morgan Stanley and Boston Private dated September 30, 2020 (together, the “Agreement”).<sup>7</sup> Pursuant to 2.01 of the Merger Agreement, SVB agreed that the “Surviving Bank shall be responsible for all of the liabilities of every kind and description of each of the merging banks existing as of the Effective Time, including all deposits, accounts, debts, obligations and contracts thereof ....”

3. Morgan Stanley files this Motion to request leave to file a late proof of claim, as, in considering whether “excusable neglect” exists such that Morgan Stanley should be permitted to submit these claims, the Court considers the four factors laid out by the Supreme Court in *Pioneer Investment Services Co. v. Brunswick Assocs. Ltd. P’ship*, 507 U.S. 380 (1993). All four *Pioneer* factors weigh in favor of permitting Morgan Stanley to file its proof of claim. Accordingly, Morgan Stanley respectfully requests to be permitted to amend the Original Claim, or, alternatively, a *nunc pro tunc* extension of the period to file a proof of claim.

### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

4. The Court has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334

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<sup>6</sup> See Special Purpose Acquisition Companies, Shell Companies, and Projections, Securities Act Release No. 11265, Exchange Act Release No. 99418 (adopted January 24, 2024) (the “Final Release”), at pp. 288-289 (discussing lack of underwriter in traditional M&A transactions), *avail. at* <https://www.sec.gov/files/rules/final/2024/33-11265.pdf>.

<sup>7</sup> The Agreement is related to the Merger Agreement, dated January 2, 2021, between SVB and Boston Private (a true and correct copy of is attached hereto as **Exhibit E**).

and the *Amended Standing Order of Reference from the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York*, dated January 31, 2021 (Preska, C.J.). This is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b). Venue is proper before the Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409. The statutory and legal predicates for the relief requested herein are Rules 3003(c)(3) and 9006(b)(1) of the Bankruptcy Rules.

### **BACKGROUND**

5. On March 17, 2023 (the “Petition Date”), the Debtor commenced the Chapter 11 Case in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York (the “Court”) under chapter 11 of the United States Code (the “Bankruptcy Code”). The Debtor continues to operate its business and manage its properties as a debtor in possession pursuant to sections 1107(a) and 1108 of title 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. On March 28, 2023, the U.S. Trustee appointed the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors (the “Committee”) of the Debtor to serve as a fiduciary for all unsecured creditors.

6. On April 7, 2023, the City of Hialeah Employees Retirement System and others filed a putative class action against Morgan Stanley and the other underwriters of several securities offerings by the Debtor. *See City of Hialeah Employees Retirement System v. Becker*, No. 3:23-cv-01697-JD (N.D. Cal. filed Apr. 7, 2023). The complaint also named several former officers and directors of the Debtor as defendants.

7. A proof of claim in respect of Morgan Stanley’s contribution and indemnification rights related to the claims asserted in the *City of Hialeah* lawsuit was filed on its behalf by Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC. *See supra* n.3.

8. On April 14, 2023, Stephen Rossi filed a putative class action complaint against several former officers and directors of the Debtor asserting claims based on alleged misrepresentations in connection with the Debtor’s acquisition of Boston Private. *See supra* n.5.

Morgan Stanley was not named in the 2023 Complaint. *See generally* Ex. C.

9. On January 26, 2024, the Debtor filed the Plan of Reorganization [ECF No. 826] and on February 7, 2024, the Debtor filed the Disclosure Statement [ECF No. 845] thereto. The Court will hold a hearing to consider approval of the Disclosure Statement on April 9, 2024.

### **RELIEF REQUESTED**

10. Morgan Stanley respectfully requests that the Court enter an order, substantially in the form attached hereto as **Exhibit A** (the “Proposed Order”) extending, *nunc pro tunc*, Morgan Stanley’s time to file a proof of claim in this action despite passage of the Bar Date.

### **BASIS FOR RELIEF**

11. Morgan Stanley asks the Court to recognize Morgan Stanley’s right to amend the Original Claim, or, in the alternative, for an extension of time to file a proof of claim. Morgan Stanley is entitled to such relief primarily because it could not have anticipated the unprecedented theory of liability in the 2024 Complaint and filing the proof of claim will not prejudice the Debtor.

#### **A. The “Excusable Neglect” Standard**

12. Bankruptcy Rule 9006(b)(1) authorizes a bankruptcy court to accept late-filed claims where the failure to act is a result of “excusable neglect,” and contemplates that courts are permitted, where appropriate, to accept late filings. Fed. R. Bankr. P. 9006(b)(1).

13. The leading case addressing the “excusable neglect” standard is *Pioneer*, 507 U.S. 380. According to the Supreme Court, “excusable neglect” is an elastic concept and includes inadvertence, mistake, or carelessness, as well as intervening circumstances beyond the party’s control. *Pioneer*, 507 U.S. at 388, 391-92. A determination of “excusable neglect” is an equitable consideration where the Court must take into account all relevant circumstances. *Id.* at 395.

14. The Supreme Court, noting that one of the aims of chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code is to “avoid[] forfeiture by creditors,” *id.* at 389, determined that there were four key factors

to analyze when evaluating whether a claim may be accepted after the bar date as a result of “excusable neglect”:

- i. whether granting the delay will prejudice the debtor;
- ii. the length of the delay and its impact on efficient court administration;
- iii. whether the delay was beyond the reasonable control of the person whose duty it was to perform; and
- iv. whether the creditor acted in good faith.

*Pioneer*, 507 U.S. at 385, 395. Importantly, the determination of whether “excusable neglect” is present is factual in nature and falls within the discretion of the bankruptcy court. *See In re Machevsky*, No. 2:14-BK-29611-RK, 2020 WL 8184202, at \*1 (Bankr. C.D. Cal. Dec. 16, 2020) (“excusable neglect” determination falls within court’s “equitable discretion” and “take[s] account [of] all relevant circumstances surrounding the party’s omission”).

**B. An Extension of Morgan Stanley’s Deadline to File Proof of Claims is Warranted**

15. Each of the four factors set forth by the Supreme Court for permitting post-bar date claims weigh in favor of allowing Morgan Stanley to file its proof of claim.

16. *First*, filing the proof of claim will ***not prejudice*** the Debtor because the claims asserted against Morgan Stanley are indistinguishable from those asserted in a lawsuit filed almost a year ago as to which the Debtor already is subject to potential contribution claims. Indeed, the Court already granted permission for the advancement of defense costs to the earlier-named defendants from the Debtor’s insurance policies.<sup>8</sup> *Second*, there was no delay by Morgan Stanley in filing a claim and, even if there had been a delay, there will be ***no impact on any judicial proceeding***. *Third*, there is ***good cause for any delay*** because Morgan Stanley only recently learned of the 2024 Complaint and could not have anticipated its unprecedented theory of liability.

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<sup>8</sup> See Order Granting Movants’ Motion for Order Allowing the Advancement and Payment of Defense Costs of Insureds Pursuant to the D&O Policies [ECF No. 247] (the “D&O Insurance Order”) (where the Court granted permission to pay certain D&O insurance policies).

Indeed, upon learning of the 2024 Complaint, Morgan Stanley promptly filed this Motion to request permission to file the attached proof of claim (attached as **Exhibit D**). *Finally*, there can be no argument that Morgan Stanley has done anything other than act in good faith.

i. *Prejudice to the Debtors*

17. *First*, allowing a late-filed claim will not prejudice the Debtor because no plan has been confirmed. *See In re Herman's Sporting Goods, Inc.* 166 B.R. 581, 584 (Bankr. D.N.J. 1994) (“The absence of a confirmed plan of reorganization indicates a lack of prejudice to the debtor.”); *Matter of Papp Intern., Inc.*, 189 B.R. 939, 944 (Bankr. D. Neb. 1995) (“Several courts have concluded the lack of a confirmed plan indicates a lack of prejudice to the debtor if a late filed proof of claim is permitted.”). The Debtor and other interested parties are thus in the same position they would have been in had the proof of claim been filed before the Bar Date—either way, the Debtor would have to object or provide for the claim in the plan of reorganization.

18. Further, the lawsuit filed almost a year ago that did not name Morgan Stanley as a defendant already put the Debtor on notice of, and left the Debtor subject to, potential contribution claims in respect of, the claims now asserted against Morgan Stanley. Moreover, the Court already granted permission for defense costs to be advanced to the earlier-named defendants under the Debtor’s D&O policies.

ii. *Length of Delay*

19. “The Second Circuit has stated, ‘neither we nor—as far as our research discloses—any other court has established a bright-line rule governing when the lateness of a claim will be considered “substantial.” The length of delay in time is only given meaning by its effect on the administration of the case.’” *In re Lyondell Chem. Co.*, 543 B.R. 400, 411 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2016). Notably, courts have accepted claims filed more than a year after the bar date where the impact on

the proceedings was minimal. *See e.g., In re Byrne*, 162 B.R. 816 (Bankr. W.D. Wisc. 1993) (impact on proceedings is minimal where proof of claim is filed one year and two months late).

20. Although the Bar Date has passed, there was no delay by Morgan Stanley and, in any event, no aspect of these proceedings or the administration of this case will be impacted in any way if Morgan Stanley was permitted to file its proof of claim. *See In re Lyondell*, 543 B.R. at 411; *In re BuildNet, Inc.*, No. 01-82293, 2003 WL 22078079, at \*3 (M.D.N.C. 2003) (allowing late-filed indemnification claim, including because claim was filed “within one month of the commencement of the action”).

iii. *Reason for Delay*

21. Any delay on the part of Morgan Stanley in not timely filing the indemnity and contribution claim is excusable. Excusable neglect is “not limited strictly to omissions caused by circumstances beyond the control of the movant.” *Pioneer*, 507 U.S. at 392. “Congress plainly contemplated that the courts would be permitted, where appropriate, to accept late filings caused by inadvertence, mistake, or carelessness, as well as by intervening circumstances beyond the party’s control.” *Id.* at 388.

22. Here, Morgan Stanley was not on notice or aware that a lawsuit would be brought for the merger transaction between the Debtor and Boston Private. Indeed, a lawsuit was filed almost one year ago, and Morgan Stanley was not named. *See* Ex. C. It, therefore, would have been unreasonable to have required Morgan Stanley to have filed a claim prior to the Bar Date, particularly in light of the fact that the theory of liability advanced against Morgan Stanley is unprecedented and contrary to SEC guidance. *See supra* n.6.

23. The Second Circuit has held that a failure to file a claim prior to the bar date is not fatal where, as here, the claimant did not know the claim existed until after the bar date lapsed.



*See SPV Osus Ltd. v. UBS AG*, 882 F.3d 333, 340-41 (2d Cir. 2018) (citing *In re PT-I Commc'ns, Inc.*, 292 B.R. 482, 489 (Bankr. E.D.N.Y. 2003)). In *PT-I*, the court agreed that the claimant should not be required to file a protective proof of claim where the claimant had no reason to believe that there was potential liability until after the bar date. *See In re PT-I Commc'ns, Inc.*, 292 B.R. at 489; *see also In re BuildNet, Inc.*, 2003 WL 22078079, at \*3 (allowing late-filed indemnification claim, including because “there was no indication that there might be claims...that would trigger their indemnification rights until well after the Bar Date.”).<sup>9</sup> Equity supports permitting Morgan Stanley to file a claim for indemnity and contribution as Morgan Stanley could not have been on notice that the 2024 Complaint would be brought, as the 2023 Complaint had already been filed and the 2024 Complaint adds Morgan Stanley under a theory that has never been used before, contrary to SEC guidance. *See supra* n.6.

iv. *Good Faith*

24. Finally, and for the same reasons discussed above as to the other three factors, the fourth *Pioneer* factor weighs in favor of Morgan Stanley, as there is no reasonable suggestion that it failed to act in anything other than good faith. Morgan Stanley began preparing this Motion and the attached proof of claim immediately upon being made aware of the 2024 Complaint. As

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<sup>9</sup> Morgan Stanley acknowledges that the Second Circuit, in dicta, observed that “[e]xcusable neglect does not excuse the failure to file proof of claim for an indemnification liability by the bar date.” *SPV Osus*, 882 F.3d at 341 (citing *Allstate Ins. Co. v. Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC*, No. 11 Civ. 2232, 2011 WL 4965150, at \*5 (S.D.N.Y. Oct. 19, 2011) and *Sealink Funding Ltd. v. Bear Stearns & Co. Inc.*, No. 12 Civ. 1397, 2012 WL 4794450, at \*3 (Oct. 9, 2012)). The two decisions cited by the Second Circuit are distinguishable from this case. In *Allstate*, for example, the issue was whether a party should be permitted to remove a case as “related to” various bankruptcies. 2011 WL 4965150, at \*4. The *Allstate* court did not hold that there was an absence of “excusable neglect,” but rather that no proof of claim had been filed at all. *Id.* at \*5. In so holding, the *Allstate* court expressly declined “to speculate” as to whether a bankruptcy court would excuse the late filing, and thus implicitly acknowledged a bankruptcy court could excuse the late filing. *Id.* The situation was the same in *Sealink*. 2012 WL 4794450, at \*3 (acknowledging possibility that late-filed indemnity claim “might be allowed”). For the reasons discussed above, Morgan Stanley should be permitted to file a proof of claim based on its indemnity rights under the Agreement. *See, e.g., In re BuildNet, Inc.*, 2003 WL 22078079, at \*3 (applying *Pioneer* factors and allowing late-filed indemnification claim).

explained in detail above, Morgan Stanley could not have been expected to file a proof of claim in connection with the Debtor's acquisition of Boston Private. Accordingly, by virtue of Morgan Stanley's good-faith efforts to timely file the claim, the relatively short delay in seeking Court permission to file the claim, the absence of prejudice to the Debtor's estate and the absence of a negative impact on the efficiency of court administration, Morgan Stanley respectfully submits that, pursuant to Bankruptcy Rules 3003(c) and 9006(b)(1), the Court should conclude that excusable neglect is present and extend, *nunc pro tunc*, Morgan Stanley's time to file a proof of claim to within 14 days of a decision granting such relief.

#### **NOTICE**

25. Notice of this Motion will be provided to: (i) counsel to the U.S. Trustee; (ii) counsel to the Committee; and (iii) to the extent not listed herein, those parties requesting notice pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 2002. Morgan Stanley submits that, in light of the nature of the relief requested, no other or further notice need be provided.

#### **NO PRIOR REQUEST**

26. No prior request for the relief sought in this Motion has been made to this or any other court.

#### **CONCLUSION**

27. **WHEREFORE**, Morgan Stanley respectfully request that the Court (i) enter the Proposed Order substantially in the form attached hereto as **Exhibit A** and (ii) grant such other and further relief as the Court deems appropriate.

*[Remainder of page intentionally left blank]*

Dated: March 15, 2024  
New York, New York

**SHEARMAN & STERLING LLP**

/s/ Daniel Lewis

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New York, NY 10022  
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*Counsel to Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC*

**Exhibit A**

**Proposed Order**

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

	X	
	:	Chapter 11
In re	:	
	:	Case No. 23-10367 (MG)
SVB FINANCIAL GROUP, <sup>1</sup>	:	
	:	
Debtor.	:	
	:	
	X	

**ORDER GRANTING LEAVE TO FILE LATE PROOF OF CLAIM PURSUANT TO  
BANKRUPTCY RULES 3003(c) AND 9006(b)(1)**

Upon the motion (the “Motion”)<sup>2</sup> of Morgan Stanley (the “Morgan Stanley”), for entry of an order (this “Order”) extending the Bar Date, and this Court having jurisdiction to consider the Motion pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § § 157 and 1334; and venue of these chapter 11 cases and the Motion in this district being proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § § 1408 and 1409; and this matter being a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b); and this Court having found that proper and adequate notice of the Motion and the relief requested therein has been provided; and any objections (if any) to the Motion having been withdrawn or overruled on the merits; and this Court having found and determined that the legal and factual bases set forth in the Motion establish just cause for the relief granted herein; and after due deliberation and sufficient cause appearing therefor;

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:**

1. The Motion is GRANTED as set forth herein.

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<sup>1</sup> The last four digits of SVB Financial Group’s tax identification number are 2278.

<sup>2</sup> Capitalized terms not otherwise defined herein are to be given the meanings ascribed to them in the Motion.

2. The Bar Date for the indemnity and contribution claims of Morgan Stanley shall be 14 days from the date of this Order.

3. This Court shall retain jurisdiction with respect to any matters, claims, rights or disputes arising from or related to the Motion or the implementation, interpretation or enforcement of this Order.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 2024  
New York, New York

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HONORABLE MARTIN GLENN  
UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE

**Exhibit B**

**2024 Complaint**

1 DAVID W. HALL (SBN 274921)  
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12

*Attorneys for Plaintiff and the Proposed Class*

[Additional counsel on signature page]

15 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**  
16 **COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA**  
17

18 STEPHEN ROSSI, individually and on behalf )	Case No.
19 of all others similarly situated, )	
20 )	<u>CLASS ACTION</u>
Plaintiff, )	
21 vs. )	COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE
22 )	SECURITIES ACT OF 1933
23 ANTHONY DECHELLIS, CHRISTOPHER )	
COOPER, and MORGAN STANLEY & CO., )	<u>DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL</u>
LLC )	
24 )	
Defendants. )	
25 )	
26 )	
27 )	
28 )	



1 Plaintiff Stephen Rossi, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, alleges the  
2 following based upon personal knowledge as to Plaintiff and his own acts, and otherwise based upon  
3 the investigation conducted by and through Plaintiff's attorneys, which included, among other  
4 things, a review of U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") filings by SVB Financial  
5 Group (the "Company" or "SVB") and Boston Private Bank & Trust Company ("Boston Private"),  
6 as well as media, testimony, and analyst reports concerning the Company and its public statements.  
7 Plaintiff believes that substantial additional evidentiary support will exist for the allegations set forth  
8 herein.

9 **SUMMARY OF THE ACTION**

10 1. This is a securities class action on behalf of all persons who acquired SVB common  
11 stock pursuant to the S-4 registration statement and 424B3 prospectus (collectively, with materials  
12 incorporated by reference therein, the "Offering Materials") issued in connection with the July 2021  
13 stock-for-stock exchange through which SVB acquired and merged with Boston Private (the  
14 "Merger"). Plaintiff asserts strict liability claims for relief under §§ 11, 12(a)(2), and 15 of the  
15 Securities Act of 1933 ("1933 Act" or "Securities Act") against certain Boston Private officers who  
16 signed and solicited the Offering Materials and against Morgan Stanley & Co., LLC ("Morgan  
17 Stanley"), financial advisor for the Merger.

18 2. At the time of the Merger, SVB operated as a financial services company, a bank  
19 holding company, and a financial holding company, offering banking and financial products and  
20 services to domestic and international clients. It offered its banking services through its primary  
21 subsidiary, Silicon Valley Bank, which operated as a California state-chartered bank.

22 3. Pursuant to the Merger, each share of Boston Private stock was converted into the  
23 right to receive \$2.10 in cash and 0.0228 shares of SVB common stock. Through this cash-and-stock  
24 exchange, in connection with the Merger, Defendants solicited and sold to former Boston Private  
25 shareholders approximately 1.9 million shares of SVB common stock. All these new shares of SVB  
26 common stock were registered, issued, sold, and solicited pursuant to the Offering Materials.

27 4. The Offering Materials contained false and misleading statements of material fact,  
28 and omitted material facts that were both required by governing regulations, and necessary to make

1 the statements not misleading. Leading up to the Merger, in an environment of historically low  
2 interest rates, SVB shifted a substantial portion of its investment portfolio to longer-term, fixed-rate  
3 securities. In doing so, because a rise in interest rates reduces the market value of fixed-rate  
4 securities, SVB exposed itself to far greater interest rate risk than disclosed in the Offering Materials.

5 5. As shown in greater detail below, the Offering Materials were rife with materially false  
6 and misleading statements and omissions as to the significant, undisclosed market risks, including  
7 severe interest rate risk, uninsured depositor risk and liquidity risk, that SVB faced. Among other  
8 matters, the Offering Materials failed to disclose that:

9 (a) Higher interest rates were already jeopardizing the bank's future earnings, and  
10 worse, instead of mitigating such risks, SVB had exacerbated those risks by, inter alia,  
11 overconcentrating its investments in long-term investments to deliver short-term profits;

12 (b) As more deposits flowed in, SVB's executives had disregarded internal  
13 assessments, including recommendations to purchase shorter-term bonds to hedge its balance sheet,  
14 which would have offset the material risk of losses from rising interest rates, and instead continued  
15 investing in long-term bonds in order to drive short-term profits;

16 (c) SVB had ignored internal risk management alarms, had failed to reasonably  
17 address and comply with key risk metrics, and had altered assumptions underlying internal models  
18 that showed higher interest rates could devastate SVB's future earnings, using unreasonable and  
19 improper tweaks to those models to mask the undisclosed risks and facilitate SVB's profit-driven  
20 strategy;

21 (d) SVB lacked effective internal controls, had deficient risk management  
22 systems, its holding Company had been rated as deficient under the CAMELS (acronym for Capital  
23 adequacy, Assets, Management capability, Earnings, Liquidity, Sensitivity) rating system, regulators  
24 had warned SVB that its risk management systems were inadequate and below the Federal Reserve's  
25 expectations, and SVB was already facing many serious operational and technological problems,  
26 impairing the Company's ability to track risks, including interest rate risks, among other matters;

27 (e) SVB lacked a diversified customer base, was over-reliant on a small group of  
28 large, uninsured depositors tied into the same, insular venture capital networks, and thus an

1 overwhelmingly inordinate percentage of SVB deposits across that non-diversified customer base  
2 were particularly susceptible to the risk of a run on the bank; and

3 (f) SVB's liquidity was less than represented by Defendants and, in truth,  
4 inadequate in view of its customers' business and their collective deposits.

5 6. Moreover, with respect to interest rate risk, SVB failed to disclose that a foreseeable  
6 rise in interest rates presented a critical threat to its future business. The Offering Materials' risk factor  
7 disclosures were materially false and misleading, framing potential interest rate increases as a net  
8 **positive** for SVB. According to the Offering Materials, such increases would increase its interest rate  
9 spread, allowing SVB to charge more for its loans and buy higher yielding securities at a rate that  
10 would outpace the increased interest it would be obligated to pay on its customer deposits. But that  
11 same risk factor disclosure omitted that higher rates would reduce the market value of SVB's  
12 marketable securities, resulting in material unrealized losses from their declining market value or  
13 realized losses if they had to be liquidated.

14 7. On March 9, 2023, the truth about SVB's vulnerability began to emerge. The  
15 Company announced in a mid-quarter update that it had sold "substantially all of our Available for  
16 Sale (AFS) securities portfolio" resulting in an estimated realized post-tax loss of \$1.8 billion. SVB's  
17 stock plummeted more than 60% the next day.

18 8. Since March 8, 2023, the stock has lost substantially all of its value. SVB terminated  
19 its previously announced equity offerings; Silicon Valley Bank was shut down by the California  
20 Department of Financial Protection and Innovation; and on March 17, 2023, SVB announced it had  
21 filed a voluntary petition under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code in the United States Bankruptcy  
22 Court for the Southern District of New York.

23 9. The Federal Reserve System has since undertaken a review of the SVB failure.  
24 According to prepared testimony by Michael Barr, the Fed's Vice Chair for Supervision, before the  
25 Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, "[t]he picture that has emerged thus far  
26 shows SVB had inadequate risk management and internal controls . . . ." In fact, as reported in *The*  
27 *New York Times*, at around the time of the Merger, the Fed alerted SVB that it "was doing a bad job  
28 of ensuring that it would have enough easy-to-tap cash on hand in the event of trouble." And *The*

1 *Washington Post* reported in April 2023 that an internal model at SVB “showed that higher interest  
2 rates could have a devastating impact on the bank’s future earnings” but that, “[i]nstead of heeding  
3 that warning—and over the concerns of some staffers—SVB executives simply changed the model’s  
4 assumptions . . . .”

5 10. Plaintiff Stephen Rossi owned Boston Private stock before the Merger and acquired  
6 SVB stock pursuant to the Offering Materials in the Merger. Plaintiff asserts causes of action under  
7 §§ 11, 12, and 15 of the Securities Act against Defendants—the directors and officers who signed  
8 the Offering Materials, and KPMG, SVB’s independent auditor.

9 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

10 11. This Court has original subject matter jurisdiction under the California Constitution,  
11 Article VI, Section 10. Removal is barred by Section 22 of the 1933 Act.

12 12. This Court has personal jurisdiction and venue is proper under California Code of  
13 Civil Procedure § 410.10. Certain Defendants and their agents reside in California. Further, certain  
14 Defendants drafted and signed the Offering Materials, and controlled SVB’s operations, within  
15 California and this county. KPMG signed the “Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting  
16 Firm” and the “Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm” in California. Certain  
17 Defendants and their agents also affirmatively solicited the subject securities and disseminated the  
18 false and misleading statements and omissions to investors in California and this county. Individually  
19 and collectively, these contacts with California are substantially connected to the claims set forth in  
20 this complaint.

21 13. This Court is a proper venue under California Code of Civil Procedure § 395.

22 **PARTIES**

23 14. Plaintiff Stephen Rossi is a resident of Castro Valley, California. Plaintiff acquired  
24 SVB common stock directly in the Merger, in exchange for Boston Private shares, pursuant to the  
25 Offering Materials and was damaged thereby.

26 15. Defendant Anthony DeChellis was, at relevant times, Chief Executive Officer of  
27 Boston Private. Defendant DeChellis reviewed, contributed to, and signed the Offering Materials.  
28 Defendant DeChellis solicited Plaintiff and other former Boston Private investors to participate in

1 the merger and purchase the securities issued pursuant thereto, planned and contributed to the Merger  
2 and Offering Materials, and attended promotional events to meet with and present favorable  
3 information to Boston Private investors.

4 16. Defendant Christopher Cooper was, at all relevant times, the Corporate Secretary and  
5 Head of Legal for Boston Private. Defendant Cooper reviewed, contributed to, and signed the  
6 Offering Materials. On behalf of and at the direction of Boston Private, Defendant Cooper oversaw  
7 the company's legal function and department, acted as an advisor to the board of directors on matters  
8 of corporate governance, including serving as Corporate Secretary, structured and negotiated  
9 business agreements and contracts in connection with the Merger, managed compliance functions in  
10 connection with securities regulations, including the preparation and filing of SEC Forms 10-K, 10-  
11 Q and 8-K, and earnings releases, maintained the company's insider stock ownership program,  
12 supported the company's various business functions, including finance, information technology,  
13 investor relations, marketing, business development and corporate real estate, coordinated the  
14 company's insurance programs, advised the human resources department regarding equity plans and  
15 executive compensation programs, conducted internal employee investigations and provided  
16 recommendations for disciplinary actions, up to and including terminations, and directed the work  
17 of external law firms on behalf of Boston Private. Defendant Cooper solicited Plaintiff and other  
18 former Boston Private investors to participate in the merger and purchase the securities issued  
19 pursuant thereto, planned and contributed to the Merger and Offering Materials, and attended  
20 promotional events to meet with and present favorable information to Boston Private investors.

21 17. The Defendants named in ¶¶ 15-16 are referred to herein as the "Individual  
22 Defendants." Each of them signed and was identified in the Offering Materials, solicited the  
23 securities issued pursuant thereto, planned and contributed to the Merger and Offering Materials,  
24 and attended promotional events to meet with and present favorable information to Boston Private  
25 investors.

26 18. Defendant Morgan Stanley ("Morgan Stanley") is a New York-based investment  
27 bank that signed and was identified in the Offering Materials, solicited Plaintiff and other former  
28 Boston Private investors to participate in the Merger and purchase the securities issued in the stock-

1 for-stock exchange pursuant thereto, contributed to the Merger and Offering Materials, and directly  
2 solicited ostensibly favorable information to Boston Private investors, including by providing an  
3 expert opinion in the Offering Materials that the Merger consideration was fair to Boston Private  
4 shareholders. Morgan Stanley also represented that they had conducted adequate due diligence and  
5 had consulted with management on the companies' operations and financial condition. As  
6 independent financial professionals assisting Boston Private with the Merger negotiations and with  
7 access to SVB's non-public information, Morgan Stanley put their imprimatur on the false and  
8 misleading statements contained in the Offering Materials, including but not limited to those  
9 regarding the fairness of the Merger consideration and the prospects for SVB.

## 10 **FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

### 11 **Relevant Banking Background**

12 19. A typical commercial bank accepts deposits that customers can withdraw at will. The  
13 bank may pay interest on some or all of those deposits. These deposits are liabilities because they  
14 are owed to the bank's customers.

15 20. A typical commercial bank also holds some cash to manage day-to-day withdrawals  
16 and deposits. The bank seeks to earn interest on the balance of the deposited funds, typically by  
17 making loans or investing in assets. The bank makes a profit on the difference between the interest  
18 that its assets earn and the interest that it must pay on its liabilities. This difference is called the  
19 "interest rate spread."

20 21. Low interest rates in the market generally correspond to a low interest rate spread.  
21 And because a bank makes its profit off the interest rate spread, low interest rates can result in low  
22 profits.

23 22. The securities that banks purchase generally fall into two categories: (1) "available-  
24 for-sale," or "AFS," and (2) "hold-to-maturity," or "HTM." AFS securities are those that might be  
25 sold to raise revenue, so their book value—their value on a balance sheet—is adjusted periodically  
26 to reflect changes in their market value, such as due to interest rate fluctuations. HTM securities are  
27 intended to be held to maturity, so their book value is kept fixed throughout their life. Selling HTM  
28

1 securities prior to their date of maturity results in the portfolio being immediately “marked to market”  
2 (valued at current market value versus value at maturity), which can create a need to raise capital.

3 **SVB’s Origins and Development to 2021**

4 23. SVB was founded in Santa Clara County in 1983 and has been headquartered in the  
5 same county ever since. Until its bankruptcy, SVB (through its primary subsidiary, Silicon Valley  
6 Bank) specialized in taking deposits from and lending to startup companies, particularly ones based  
7 in the Silicon Valley region of the San Francisco Bay Area.

8 24. Throughout the 2010s, interest rates were low by historical standards, resulting in  
9 lower-than-desired profits at SVB. The concerns about profitability became more acute by the late  
10 2010s, as SVB’s assets approached \$50 billion. The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer  
11 Protection Act of 2010 subjected all bank holding companies with \$50 billion or more in assets to  
12 enhanced regulations due to their presumed systemic importance.

13 25. In 2017, there was a change in leadership within SVB’s key finance functions, and in  
14 2018, the new financial leadership at SVB sought greater returns on the bank’s assets. To that end,  
15 SVB shifted a large portion of its investment portfolio from short-term bonds to long-term bonds.  
16 The latter pay higher interest rates but tie up funds and remain on the books for longer.

17 26. Between the fourth quarter of 2019 and during 2021, including when the COVID-19  
18 pandemic led to an increase in the use of the Internet for most activities and the federal government  
19 injected money into the economy to prevent a significant downturn, SVB experienced massive  
20 growth in deposits. In 2018, SVB’s deposits were just under \$50 billion. In 2020, its deposits had  
21 grown to \$102 billion. By 2021, its deposits were approaching \$190 billion.

22 27. More deposits came in than SVB could lend out. Loans to startups were a relatively  
23 small part of SVB’s business in the early 2020s, both because of the equity investments funding  
24 startups and because the typical startup has not built up a track record of good creditworthiness. SVB  
25 made home loans and performed other kinds of business lending, such as vineyard finance, but in  
26 accordance with the strategy it had adopted a few years earlier, much of the inflow of deposits to  
27 SVB in 2020 and 2021 went to purchasing long-term securities, such as U.S. Treasury bonds.



1 28. SVB concentrated its investments in HTM securities (as opposed to AFS securities)  
2 for its expanding securities portfolio. (*See infra* ¶¶ 139-42.)

3 29. As a consequence of these developments, SVB's balance sheet in 2021 had the  
4 following essential characteristics:

- 5 • First, SVB's liabilities consisted primarily of recent deposits, often from startups.  
6 These deposits brought significant risk. Venture capital firms invest in startups to earn  
7 returns, but as interest rates rise, safer alternatives to investing in startups become  
8 more viable by paying a higher return. When interest rates rise, therefore, fewer  
9 startups receive funding, startups have less cash to deposit in a bank, and some may  
10 need to withdraw funds.
- 11 • Second, a substantial proportion of SVB's assets were long-term U.S. Treasury bonds  
12 and other government-affiliated debt securities.

13 30. U.S. Treasury bonds are sometimes described as "safe" investments. But, while U.S.  
14 Treasury bonds are safe from *credit* risk (*i.e.*, the U.S. Treasury has never failed to repay creditors),  
15 all fixed-interest bonds are subject to significant interest rate risk. A U.S. Treasury bond provides  
16 payments at a fixed interest rate for a set number of years, but when interest rates rise, a bond at the  
17 older, lower rate *loses* value because investors can buy bonds at a new, higher rate.

18 31. Long-term bonds pose additional risks. By definition, they tie up liquidity for a longer  
19 period. Hence, if there is an unexpected need for liquidity, bonds must be sold. If interest rates have  
20 risen, bonds must be sold at a loss.

21 32. In the 2010s, interest rates had been low for years. The Federal Funds Rate, a key  
22 benchmark, dropped close to zero during the financial crisis in 2007 and 2008, and had remained  
23 close to zero ever since, except for a few small increases between 2017 and 2020, which were quickly  
24 reversed.

25 33. By early 2021, market conditions had changed enough that SVB's exposure to rising  
26 interest rates was no longer a potential future risk: It presented a near-term crisis. Typically, the  
27 Federal Reserve raises interest rates to fight inflation. Accordingly, by early 2021, with interest rates  
28



1 at near historic lows, interest rates were set to rise with expected inflation.<sup>1</sup> These increases were  
2 foreseeable. Before 2022, interest rates were historically low: from the end of 2008 to early 2022,  
3 rates were lower than they had ever been in any previous time period of comparable length.  
4 Historically, though, the Federal Reserve has lowered *and raised* interest rates to respond to  
5 macroeconomic conditions. Near-zero rates could not persist indefinitely.

6 **DEFENDANTS' FALSE AND MISLEADING OFFERING MATERIALS**

7 34. On January 4, 2021, SVB announced that it had entered into a definitive merger  
8 agreement pursuant to which it would acquire Boston Private Bank & Trust Company. Under the  
9 terms of the merger agreement, Boston Private shareholders would receive 0.0228 shares of SVB  
10 common stock and \$2.10 of cash for each Boston Private share they owned.

11 **The Offering Materials**

12 35. On February 11, 2021, SVB filed with the SEC on Form S-4 a draft registration  
13 statement which would register the SVB shares to be issued and exchanged in the Merger.

14 36. On March 16, 2021, SVB filed with the SEC a final amendment to the registration  
15 statement. The amended registration statement incorporated by reference, among other matters, the  
16 following SVB SEC filings, namely:

- 17 • Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2020, filed with the  
18 SEC on March 1, 2021;
- 19 • Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A for the 2021 annual meeting of stockholders,  
20 filed with the SEC on March 4, 2021;
- 21 • Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 4, 2021, January 8, 2021,  
22 January 21, 2021 (only with respect to Item 8.01) and February 2, 2021; and
- 23 • Description of SVB common stock, par value \$0.001 per share, contained in registration  
24 statement on Form 8-A filed with the SEC on April 23, 1987, including any amendment  
25 or report filed for the purposes of updating such description.

26  
27 <sup>1</sup> The Federal Reserve announced seven rate increases in 2022, beginning in March, amounting to a  
28 total of four percentage points. Another rate hike followed in early 2023.

1 37. The SEC declared the amended registration statement effective on March 17, 2021.

2 38. On March 18, 2021, SVB filed a prospectus on Form 424B3 for the SVB shares issued  
3 and exchanged in the Merger.

4 39. On July 1, 2021, the Merger closed. Until then, Boston Private shareholders could  
5 sell their shares on the open market if they did not want to receive SVB stock in the Merger. On that  
6 date, Boston Private shareholders received 0.0228 shares of SVB common stock and \$2.10 of cash  
7 for each Boston Private share they owned. The final closing price of Boston Private stock was  
8 \$14.75.

9 **The Offering Materials' False and Misleading Statements and Omissions Regarding**  
10 **Interest Rate and Deposit Risk**

11 40. The Offering Materials contained untrue statements of material fact and omitted  
12 material facts that were both required by governing regulations and necessary to make the statements  
13 made not misleading.

14 41. The Offering Materials failed to disclose that SVB faced significant interest rate risk,  
15 including on both the asset and liability sides of its balance sheet from investing predominantly in  
16 long-term, fixed-rate, government-backed debt securities. On the asset side of SVB's balance sheet,  
17 higher interest rates risked decreasing the value of SVB's long-term debt securities. On the liability  
18 side of SVB's balance sheets, higher interest rates risked less capital allocated to technology  
19 companies, thereby decreasing the supply of cheap deposit funding.

20 42. The Offering Materials failed to disclose that SVB's deposits and long-term debt  
21 security assets were subject to interest rate risk, such that if interest rates substantially rose, SVB  
22 could be expected to need liquidity to repay depositors while simultaneously being unable to acquire  
23 liquidity except by selling its long-term debt security assets at large losses. As detailed below, *see*  
24 ¶¶ 137-52, this relationship between the interest rate risk in SVB's deposits and its assets—which  
25 was an existing material risk by early 2021—materialized in March 2023 and precipitated the bank  
26 run that caused SVB's collapse.

27 43. The Risk Factors section of SVB's 2020 10-K, incorporated by reference into the  
28 Offering Materials, failed to disclose the serious interest rate risk that SVB faced.

1 44. The Risk Factors section stated the following:

2 **Our interest rate spread has declined, and may continue to decline in the future.**  
3 **Any material reduction in our interest rate spread could have a material adverse**  
4 **effect on our business, results of operations or financial condition.<sup>2</sup>**

5 A significant portion of our net income comes from our interest rate spread, which is  
6 the difference between the interest rates paid by us on interest-bearing liabilities, such  
7 as deposits and internal borrowings, and the interest rates and fees we receive on our  
8 interest-earning assets, such as loans extended to our clients, securities held in our  
9 investment portfolio and excess cash held to manage short-term liquidity. Our interest  
10 rate spread can be affected by the mix of loans, investment securities, deposits and  
11 other liabilities on our balance sheet, as well as a variety of external factors beyond  
12 our control that affect interest rate levels, such as competition, inflation, recession,  
13 global economic disruptions, unemployment and the fiscal and monetary policies of  
14 various governmental bodies. For example, changes in key variable market interest  
15 rates, such as the Federal Funds, National Prime ("Prime"), LIBOR or Treasury rates,  
16 generally impact our interest rate spread. While changes in interest rates do not  
17 generally produce equivalent changes in the revenues earned from our interest-earning  
18 assets and the expenses associated with our interest-bearing liabilities, increases in  
19 market interest rates are nevertheless *likely to cause our interest rate spread to*  
20 *increase. Conversely, if interest rates decline, our interest rate spread will likely*  
21 *decline. In the first quarter of 2020, the Federal Reserve lowered the target Federal*  
22 *Funds rate to between zero and 0.25%, which contributed to the decline of our*  
23 *interest rate spread, and also led to a decrease in the rates and yields on U.S.*  
24 *Treasury securities. If interest rates do not rise, or if the Federal Reserve lowers the*  
25 *target Federal Funds rate to below 0%, these low rates could continue to constrain*  
26 *our interest rate spread and may adversely affect our business forecasts.* On the other  
27 hand, increases in interest rates may result in a change in the mix of non-interest and  
28 interest-bearing accounts, and the level of off-balance sheet market-based investment  
preferred by our clients, which may also impact our interest rate spread.

(emphasis added).

45. This paragraph incorporated into the Offering Materials was materially misleading  
because, among other matters, it portrays an increase in interest rates as "likely to cause [SVB's]  
interest rate spread to increase," which would increase the Company's net income from the spread.  
In other words, SVB could charge more for its loans and buy higher yielding securities. In reality,  
an increase in interest rates would sharply reduce the value of SVB's long-term debt security assets.

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<sup>2</sup> Bolding in original.

1 46. SVB's omissions regarding its interest rate risk also rendered the Offering Materials  
2 false and misleading. Specifically, the Offering Materials failed to disclose the substantial risk that  
3 higher interest rates posed to SVB, including that higher interest rates would lower the market value  
4 of SVB's long-term debt securities, resulting in material unrealized losses from their declining  
5 market value or realized losses if they had to be liquidated. Instead of informing investors of this  
6 risk, the Offering Materials presented future rate increases as something that would benefit SVB.

7 47. In late 2020, as deposits increased at SVB, Company executives rejected an internal  
8 recommendation to purchase shorter-term bonds to reduce the risk of material losses from interest  
9 rate increases. As Bloomberg reported on March 13, 2023:

10 In late 2020, the firm's asset-liability committee received an internal recommendation  
11 to buy shorter-term bonds as more deposits flowed in, according to documents viewed  
12 by Bloomberg. That shift would reduce the risk of sizable losses if interest rates  
13 quickly rose. But it would have a cost: an estimated \$18 million reduction in earnings,  
14 with a \$36 million hit going forward from there.

15 Executives balked. Instead, the company continued to plow cash into higher-yielding  
16 assets. That helped profit jump 52% to a record in 2021 and helped the firm's valuation  
17 soar past \$40 billion. But as rates soared in 2022, the firm racked up more than \$16  
18 billion of unrealized losses on its bond holdings.

19 Throughout last year, some employees pleaded to reposition the company's balance  
20 sheet into shorter duration bonds. The asks were repeatedly rejected, according to a  
21 person familiar with the conversations. The firm did start to put on some hedges and  
22 sell assets late last year, but the moves proved too late.<sup>3</sup>

23 48. Nor did the Offering Materials disclose that, to inflate short-term profits, the  
24 Company ignored internal alarms, failed to comply with key risk metrics, and engineered  
25 assumptions to internal models that (correctly) showed that higher interest rates could devastate  
26 SVB's future earnings. As reported by *The Washington Post* in an article titled, "*Silicon Valley  
Bank's risk model flashed red. So its executives changed it*":

27 Flush with cash from a booming tech industry, *Silicon Valley Bank executives  
28 embarked on a strategy in 2020 to juice profits that quickly triggered an internal  
alarm. In buying longer-term investments that paid more interest, SVB had fallen  
out of compliance with a key risk metric. An internal model showed that higher*

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-03-13/svb-failure-sparks-blame-game-over-trump-era-regulatory-rollback#xj4y7vzkg>

1 *interest rates could have a devastating impact on the bank's future earnings,*  
2 *according to two former employees familiar with the modeling who spoke on the*  
3 *condition of anonymity to describe confidential deliberations.*

4 *Instead of heeding that warning — and over the concerns of some staffers — SVB*  
5 *executives simply changed the model's assumptions, according to the former*  
6 *employees and securities filings.* The tweaks, which have not been previously  
7 reported, initially predicted that rising interest rates would have minimal impact.

8 The new assumptions validated SVB's profit-driven strategy, but they were  
9 profoundly misplaced. Over the past year, interest rates have climbed nearly five  
10 percentage points, the fastest pace since the 1980s. Meanwhile, the tech industry has  
11 entered a post-pandemic swoon, causing SVB's elite clientele to withdraw cash far  
12 faster than bank executives had expected.

13 On March 8, the bank was forced to raise additional cash by selling securities at a \$1.8  
14 billion loss. That touched off panic among SVB clients, who staged one of the biggest  
15 bank runs in U.S. history. Fanned by social media, depositors tried to withdraw \$42  
16 billion in a single day. The next morning, the bank collapsed and federal regulators  
17 took control.

18 *The episode shows that executives knew early on that higher interest rates could*  
19 *jeopardize the bank's future earnings. Instead of shifting course to mitigate that*  
20 *risk, they doubled down on a strategy to deliver near-term profits, displaying an*  
21 *appetite for risk that set the stage for SVB's stunning meltdown.*

22 \* \* \*

23 "They thought they could never go wrong," said a former bank official who spoke on  
24 the condition of anonymity to discuss internal business practices, recalling an internal  
25 stress test in late 2018 or 2019 that showed SVB could lose at least a third of its  
26 deposits over two years. Executives directed that that model also be reworked. "If they  
27 see a model they don't like," the official said, "they scrap it."

28 Kate Mitchell, a venture capitalist and chair of the SVB board's risk committee, didn't  
respond to a request for comment.

The behavior of customers depositing money is a key variable that banks use in  
developing risk models. One metric, closely tracked by banks and their examiners,  
estimates future cash flows and how sensitive they are to changes in interest rates. It  
was this metric, called the economic value of equity, that triggered a warning in mid-  
2020, according to the former employees.<sup>4</sup>

49. The Offering Documents failed to disclose the risks from SVB's comparatively  
narrow and impulsive base of clients which rendered SVB's deposit base particularly at risk. As

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2023/04/02/svb-collapse-risk-model/>

1 Bloomberg reported on April 1, 2023: “There’s all these venture-capital funded companies that have  
2 \$5, \$10, \$20, \$25, sometimes hundreds of millions of dollars parked with this little bank,” he said.  
3 “And you can move money with the click of a mouse now. And then they’re all talking to one  
4 another. So in retrospect, it’s like yeah, should have seen that one coming more easily.”<sup>5</sup>

5 50. The Offering Materials failed to disclose that the deposit risk the Company faced  
6 because it lacked a diversified customer base was amplified by the large percentage of uninsured  
7 deposits at SVB.<sup>6</sup>

8 51. Because depositors with uninsured deposits are exposed to the danger that they will  
9 lose everything if a bank fails, they are much more likely to withdraw their money, triggering a self-  
10 fulfilling cycle in which customers withdraw cash, forcing the bank into a fire sale of assets that  
11 further drives down their value. The Offering Materials did not disclose the uninsured depositor risk  
12 that SVB faced.

13 52. Further, there are several additional false and misleading disclosures in the Offering  
14 Materials, as set forth below.

15 53. The Risk Factors section of SVB’s 2020 10-K stated:

16 **Liquidity risk could impair our ability to fund operations and jeopardize our**  
17 **financial condition.**<sup>7</sup>

18 Liquidity is essential to our business, both at the SVB Financial and the Bank level.  
19 We require sufficient liquidity to meet our expected financial obligations, as well as  
20 unexpected requirements stemming from client activity and market changes, such as  
21 the unexpected cash outflows that occurred at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic  
22 when certain clients increased utilization of their credit lines. . . . ***The primary source***  
23 ***of liquidity for the Bank is client deposits.*** When needed, our liquidity is  
supplemented by wholesale borrowing capacity in the form of short- and long-term  
borrowings secured by our portfolio of high-quality investment securities, long-term  
capital market debt issuances and unsecured overnight funding channels available to  
us in the Federal Funds market. An inability to maintain or raise funds through these

24 <sup>5</sup> [https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-04-01/svb-s-fall-stunned-even-the-one-stock-](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-04-01/svb-s-fall-stunned-even-the-one-stock-analyst-who-said-to-sell)  
25 [analyst-who-said-to-sell](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-04-01/svb-s-fall-stunned-even-the-one-stock-analyst-who-said-to-sell)

26 <sup>6</sup> While the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (“FDIC”) insures bank deposits up to \$250,000,  
27 the great majority of deposits in SVB (by value) were above \$250,000.

28 <sup>7</sup> Bolding in original.



1 sources could have a substantial negative effect, individually or collectively, on SVB  
2 Financial and the Bank's liquidity. Our access to funding sources in amounts adequate  
3 to finance our activities, or on terms attractive to us, could be impaired by factors that  
4 affect us specifically or the financial services industry in general. For example, *factors*  
5 *that could detrimentally impact our access to liquidity sources include a decrease in*  
6 *the level of our business activity due to a market downturn or adverse regulatory*  
7 *action against us, a downturn in asset markets such that the collateral we hold*  
8 *cannot be realized or is liquidated at prices not sufficient to recover the full amount*  
9 *of our secured obligations, a reduction in our credit rating, any damage to our*  
10 *reputation or any other decrease in depositor or investor confidence in our*  
11 *creditworthiness and business. Our access to liquidity could also be impaired by*  
12 *factors that are not specific to us, such as laws and regulations that limit the amount*  
13 *of intercompany dividends that bank subsidiaries may pay, severe volatility or*  
14 *disruption of the financial markets or negative views and expectations about*  
15 *prospects for the financial services industry as a whole.* Any such event or failure to  
16 manage our liquidity effectively could affect our competitive position, increase our  
17 borrowing costs and the interest rates we pay on deposits, limit our access to the capital  
18 markets and have a material adverse effect on our financial condition.

19 (emphasis added).

20 54. The MD&A section of SVB's 2020 10-K, incorporated by reference into the Offering  
21 Materials, stated:

22 Net gains on investment securities include gains and losses from our non-marketable  
23 and other equity securities, which include public equity securities held as a result of  
24 exercised equity warrant assets, as well as gains and losses from sales of our AFS debt  
25 securities portfolio, when applicable.

26 Our non-marketable and other equity securities portfolio primarily represents  
27 investments in venture capital and private equity funds, including a joint venture bank  
28 in China, debt funds, the newly acquired managed credit platform, private and public  
portfolio companies and qualified affordable housing projects. We experience  
variability in the performance of our non-marketable and other equity securities from  
period to period, which results in net gains or losses on investment securities (both  
realized and unrealized). This variability is due to a number of factors, including  
unrealized changes in the values of our investments, changes in the amount of realized  
gains and losses from distributions, changes in liquidity events and general economic  
and market conditions. Unrealized gains or losses from non-marketable and other  
equity securities for any single period are typically driven by valuation changes, and  
are therefore subject to potential increases or decreases in future periods. Such  
variability may lead to volatility in the gains or losses from investment securities. As  
such, our results for a particular period are not necessarily indicative of our expected  
performance in a future period.

The extent to which any unrealized gains or losses will become realized is subject to  
a variety of factors, including, among other things, the expiration of certain sales

1 restrictions to which these equity securities may be subject to (e.g. lock-up  
2 agreements), changes in prevailing market prices, market conditions, the actual sales  
3 or distributions of securities and the timing of such actual sales or distributions, which,  
4 to the extent such securities are managed by our managed funds, are subject to our  
5 funds' separate discretionary sales/distributions and governance processes.

6 Our AFS securities portfolio is a fixed income investment portfolio that is managed  
7 with the objective of earning an appropriate portfolio yield over the long-term while  
8 maintaining sufficient liquidity and credit diversification as well as addressing our  
9 asset/liability management objectives. *Though infrequent, sales of debt securities in  
10 our AFS securities portfolio may result in net gains or losses and are conducted  
11 pursuant to the guidelines of our investment policy related to the management of  
12 our liquidity position and interest rate risk.*

13 (emphasis added).

14 55. With respect to interest rate derivatives and swaps, the MD&A section of SVB's 2020  
15 10-K, incorporated by reference into the Offering Materials, also stated:

16 *Client Interest Rate Derivatives*

17 We sell interest rate contracts to clients who wish to mitigate their interest rate  
18 exposure. *We economically reduce the interest rate risk from this business by  
19 entering into opposite way contracts with correspondent banks. . . .*

20 *Interest Rate Swaps*

21 *To manage interest rate risk on our variable-interest rate loan portfolio, we enter  
22 into interest rate swap contracts to hedge against future changes in interest rates* by  
23 using hedging instruments to lock in future cash inflows that would otherwise be  
24 impacted by movements in the market interest rates.

25 (emphasis added; italics in original).

26 56. With respect to interest rate risk management, SVB's 2020 10-K, incorporated by  
27 reference into the Offering Materials, stated:

28 **Interest Rate Risk Management<sup>8</sup>**

Market risk is defined as the risk of adverse fluctuations in the market value of  
financial instruments due to changes in market interest rates. *Interest rate risk is our  
primary market risk and can result from timing and volume differences in the  
repricing of our rate-sensitive assets and liabilities, widening or tightening of credit  
spreads, changes in the general level of market interest rates and changes in the*

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<sup>8</sup> Bolding in original.



1 *shape and level of the benchmark interest rates. Additionally, changes in interest*  
2 *rates can influence the rate of principal prepayments on mortgage securities, which*  
3 *affects the rate of amortization of purchase premiums and discounts.* Other market  
4 risks include foreign currency exchange risk and equity price risk (including the effect  
5 of competition on product pricing). These risks and related impacts are important  
6 market considerations but are inherently difficult to assess through simulation results.  
7 Consequently, simulations used to analyze the sensitivity of net interest income to  
8 changes in interest rates will differ from actual results due to differences in the timing  
9 and frequency of rate resets, the magnitude of changes in market rates, the impact of  
10 competition, fluctuating business conditions and the impact of strategies taken by  
11 management to mitigate these risks.

...

8 *Interest rate risk is managed primarily through strategies involving our fixed*  
9 *income securities portfolio, available funding channels and capital market activities.*  
10 *In addition, our policies permit the use of off-balance sheet derivatives, such as*  
11 *interest rate swaps, to assist with managing interest rate risk.*

(emphasis added).

12 57. SVB's 2020 10-K, incorporated by reference into the Offering Materials, also  
13 represented that the Company had implemented a risk management system to identify and manage  
14 risks including market and liquidity risk and that "if" the risk management framework is not  
15 effective, the Company "could" suffer losses:

16 **An ineffective risk management framework could have a material adverse effect**  
17 **on our strategic planning and our ability to mitigate risks and/or losses and could**  
18 **have adverse regulatory consequences.**

19 We have implemented a risk management framework to identify and manage our risk  
20 exposure. This framework is comprised of various processes, systems and strategies,  
21 and is designed to manage the types of risk to which we are subject, including, among  
22 others, credit, market, liquidity, operational, capital, compliance, strategic and  
23 reputational risks. Our framework also includes financial, analytical, forecasting or  
24 other modeling methodologies, which involve management assumptions and  
25 judgment. In addition, our Board of Directors, in consultation with management, has  
26 adopted a risk appetite statement, which sets forth certain thresholds and limits to  
27 govern our overall risk profile. However, there is no assurance that our risk  
28 management framework, including the risk metrics under our risk appetite statement,  
will be effective under all circumstances or that it will adequately identify, manage or  
mitigate any risk or loss to us. If our risk management framework is not effective, we  
could suffer unexpected losses and become subject to regulatory consequences, as a  
result of which our business, financial condition, results of operations or prospects  
could be materially adversely affected.

(emphasis in original).

1 58. SVB's 2020 10-K, incorporated by reference into the Offering Materials, also  
2 represented that SVB maintained effective controls, and that "if" such controls became ineffective,  
3 it "may" harm the Company and "could" adversely effect SVB's business, financial condition or  
4 results of operation:

5 **If we fail to maintain an effective system of internal control over financial**  
6 **reporting, we may not be able to accurately report our financial results. As a**  
7 **result, current and potential holders of our securities could lose confidence in our**  
8 **financial reporting, which would harm our business and the trading price of our**  
9 **securities.**

10 Maintaining and adapting our internal controls over financial reporting, as required by  
11 Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act and related rules and regulations of the SEC,  
12 can be costly and require significant management attention. As we continue to grow  
13 or acquire additional businesses, our internal controls may become more complex and  
14 require additional resources to ensure they remain effective amidst dynamic regulatory  
15 and other guidance. Failure to maintain effective controls or implement required new  
16 or improved controls or difficulties encountered in the process may harm our operating  
17 results or cause us to fail to meet our reporting obligations. If we or our independent  
18 registered accounting firm identify material weaknesses in our internal controls over  
19 financial reporting or if we are otherwise required to restate our financial statements,  
20 we could be required to implement costly and time-consuming remedial measures and  
21 could lose investor confidence in the accuracy and completeness of our financial  
22 reports. We may also face regulatory enforcement or other actions, including the  
23 potential delisting of our common stock from the NASDAQ Stock Market. This could  
24 have an adverse effect on our business, financial condition or results of operations, as  
25 well as the trading price of our securities, and could potentially subject us to litigation.

26 (emphasis in original).

27 59. SVB's 2020 10-K, incorporated by reference into the Offering Materials, also stated  
28 that SVB used quantitative models to manage risk, including estimating the effects of changing  
interest rates, and that the Company "could" face material adverse effects "if" the assumptions in the  
model are inappropriate or if the models are deficient:

**We rely on quantitative models to measure risks and to estimate certain financial**  
**values.**

Quantitative models may be used to help manage certain aspects of our business and  
to assist with certain business decisions, including estimating credit losses, measuring  
the fair value of financial instruments when reliable market prices are unavailable,  
estimating the effects of changing interest rates and other market measures on our  
financial condition and results of operations, and managing risk. However, all models  
have certain limitations. For example, our measurement methodologies rely on many

1 assumptions, historical analyses and correlations. These assumptions may not capture  
2 or fully incorporate conditions leading to losses, particularly in times of market  
3 distress, and the historical correlations on which we rely may no longer be relevant.  
4 Additionally, as businesses and markets evolve, our measurements may not accurately  
5 reflect the changing environment. Further, even if the underlying assumptions and  
6 historical correlations used in our models are adequate, our models may be deficient  
7 due to errors in computer code, bad data, misuse of data, or the use of a model for a  
8 purpose outside the scope of the model's design. Although we employ strategies to  
9 manage and govern the risks associated with our use of models, they may not be  
10 effective or fully reliable. As a result, our models may not capture or fully express the  
11 risks we face, suggest that we have sufficient capitalization when we do not, lead us  
12 to misjudge the business and economic environment in which we operate and  
13 ultimately cause planning failures or the reporting of incorrect information to our  
14 regulators. Any such occurrence or the perception of such occurrence by our  
15 regulators, investors or clients could in turn have a material adverse effect on our  
16 business, financial condition, results of operations or reputation.

17 (emphasis in original).

18 60. Each of the statements excerpted in paragraphs 44, 53-59, above, were false and  
19 misleading for numerous reasons. The Offering Materials failed to disclose that higher interest rates  
20 jeopardized the bank's future earnings but that instead of mitigating such risks, the bank doubled  
21 down on a strategy of investing in long-term investments to deliver short-term profits. Moreover, the  
22 Offering Materials failed to disclose that despite internal recommendations at the bank to purchase  
23 shorter-term bonds as it took in more deposits, to offset the material risk of losses from rising interest  
24 rates, SVB's executives focused on short-term profits and disregarded duration risks despite pleas  
25 from employees to hedge SVB's balance sheet with shorter duration bonds. Additionally, the  
26 Offering Materials failed to disclose that Defendants ignored internal alarms, failed to comply with  
27 key risk metrics, and engineered assumptions to internal models that showed that higher interest rates  
28 could devastate SVB's future earnings, using unreasonable and improper tweaks to the model to  
validate SVB's profit-driven strategy. The Offering Materials also failed to disclose that SVB lacked  
effective internal controls, had poor risk management, its holding Company was rated as deficient  
under the CAMELS rating system, regulators had warned SVB that its risk management systems  
were inadequate and below the Federal Reserve's expectations, and SVB was riddled with many  
serious operational and technological problems that impeded Defendants' ability to track risks,  
including interest rate risks, among other matters. Further still, the Offering Materials failed to

1 disclose that SVB lacked a diversified customer base and that a large percentage of the deposits of  
2 that non-diversified customer base were uninsured and therefore much more likely to trigger a run  
3 on the bank. Indeed, SVB failed to disclose that its startup clients' deposits—the primary source of  
4 the Company's liquidity—were particularly sensitive to interest rates: higher interest rates result in  
5 lower overall investment in startups and therefore lower deposits in Silicon Valley Bank.  
6 Accordingly, the Offering Materials failed to disclose the extent and severity of the undisclosed  
7 material market risks, including the interest rate risk, uninsured depositor risk and liquidity risk that  
8 SVB faced.

9 61. SVB's 2020 10-K, incorporated by reference into the Offering Materials, also  
10 discussed a model for the effect of interest rate changes of 1 and 2 percentage points (100 and 200  
11 basis points). In pertinent part, SVB's 2020 10-K stated:

12 *Rapid deposit growth has exceeded the pace of our loan growth*, and as a result, a  
13 significant amount of excess deposits not used to fund loan growth have contributed  
14 to the growth of our cash and investments balances. Much of the investment portfolio  
15 is held in fixed rate MBS and CMOs which generally have a higher market value  
16 sensitivity than variable rate loans or cash. Thus, *under an upward rate shock*  
17 *scenario, the market value of investments changes more than the market value of*  
18 *deposits resulting in a negative EVE [economic value of equity, defined as the*  
19 *market value of assets, less the market value of liabilities] sensitivity in those*  
20 *scenarios.*

21 (emphasis added).

22 62. These generalized statements were false and misleading for several reasons. First,  
23 SVB's deposit growth had not merely exceeded the pace of its loan growth. The Company's loans,  
24 which paid higher interest rates and were more profitable than its long-term debt security assets,  
25 were highly dependent on the performance of the technology market in Silicon Valley, which had  
26 been performing as well as it ever had in 2020, and hence it was unlikely that SVB would be able to  
27 substantially increase its loan portfolio without changing its lending model.

28 63. For example, more than half of SVB's loans were capital call loans, which are short-  
term loans to bridge the time between a call for capital from an investment firm's partners to pay for  
an investment and the actual receipt of the funds. Demand for capital call loans from SVB depended  
on the frequency of capital calls among venture capital firms investing in technology companies.

1 That frequency was very high by historical standards in 2020 and was unlikely to continue at the  
2 same level indefinitely, much less increase.

3 64. The Offering Materials failed to disclose that SVB could not substantially grow its  
4 loan business from its size in 2020.

5 65. Second, an upward rate shock would not simply result in a negative economic value  
6 of equity, as SVB suggested. It would also decrease liquidity. Hence, just as SVB's assets were  
7 decreasing in value, SVB would also need to sell assets to raise cash, resulting in heavy losses.

8 66. Third, the effect of an upward rate shock was nonlinear. SVB's simulation—which  
9 only tested up to 2 percentage points—showed that an increase of 1 percentage point in interest rates  
10 would result in a 5.9% decrease in economic value of equity, and a 2 percentage point increase would  
11 result in a 15.4% decrease in economic value of equity. But SVB did not disclose that as interest  
12 rates continued to increase (a highly probable outcome), they would exert an exponential effect on  
13 SVB's economic value of equity, resulting in total collapse of the Company at around 4-5 percentage  
14 points.

15 **The Offering Materials' False and Misleading Statements and Omissions Regarding**  
16 **Compliance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles**

17 67. Despite the Offering Materials' representations to the contrary, SVB violated  
18 Generally Accepted Accounting Principles ("GAAP").

19 **GAAP Overview**

20 68. SEC Regulation S-X, 17 C.F.R. § 210.4 01(a)(1), provides that financial statements  
21 filed with the SEC that are not presented in conformity with GAAP will be presumed to be  
22 misleading, despite footnotes or other disclosures.

23 69. GAAP constitutes those standards recognized by the accounting profession as the  
24 conventions, rules and procedures necessary to define accepted accounting practices at a particular  
25 time. The SEC has the statutory authority for the promulgation of GAAP for public companies and  
26 has delegated that authority to the Financial Accounting Standards Board (the "FASB") and the  
27 American Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("AICPA"). SEC Regulation S-X, Rule 4-01, 17  
28

1 C.F.R. § 210.4-01(a)(1), provides that financial statements filed with the SEC that are not presented  
2 in conformity with GAAP will be presumed to be misleading, despite footnotes or other disclosures.

3 70. GAAP consists of a hierarchy of authoritative literature. The highest authority is the  
4 Accounting Standards Codification, or ASC, formerly the FASB Statements of Financial Accounting  
5 Standards (“FAS”), followed by FASB Interpretations (“FIN”), FASB Staff Positions (“FSP”),  
6 Accounting Principles Board Opinions (“APB”), AICPA Accounting Research Bulletins (“ARB”),  
7 AICPA Statements of Position (“SOP”), and AICPA Industry Audit and Accounting Guides  
8 (“AAG”). GAAP provides other authoritative pronouncements including, among others, the FASB  
9 Concept Statements (“FASCON”).

10 71. As set forth in ASC 105-10-05-1, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB)  
11 Accounting Standards Codification is the source of authoritative GAAP:

12 This Topic establishes the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Accounting  
13 Standards Codification® (Codification) as the source of authoritative generally  
14 accepted accounting principles (GAAP) recognized by the FASB to be applied by  
15 nongovernmental entities. Rules and interpretive releases of the Securities and  
16 Exchange Commission (SEC) under authority of federal securities laws are also  
17 sources of authoritative GAAP for SEC registrants. In addition to the SEC’s rules and  
18 interpretive releases, the SEC staff issues Staff Accounting Bulletins that represent  
practices followed by the staff in administering SEC disclosure requirements, and it  
utilizes SEC Staff Announcements and Observer comments made at Emerging Issues  
Task Force meetings to publicly announce its views on certain accounting issues for  
SEC registrants.

19 72. Additionally, under ASC 105-10-05-3, the following non-authoritative sources of  
20 accounting guidance may be relevant depending on circumstances, including the specificity of the  
21 guidance, the general recognition of the issuer or author as an authority, and the extent of its use in  
22 practice:

23 Accounting and financial reporting practices not included in the Codification are  
24 nonauthoritative. Sources of nonauthoritative accounting guidance and literature  
include, for example, the following:

- 25 a. Practices that are widely recognized and prevalent either generally or in the  
26 industry
- 27 b. FASB Concepts Statements (FASCON)
- 28 c. American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) Issues Papers
- d. International Financial Reporting Standards of the International Accounting  
Standards Board



- e. Pronouncements of professional associations or regulatory agencies
- f. Technical Information Service Inquiries and Replies included in AICPA Technical Practice Aids
- g. Accounting textbooks, handbooks, and articles.

The appropriateness of other sources of accounting guidance depends on its relevance to particular circumstances, the specificity of the guidance, the general recognition of the issuer or author as an authority, and the extent of its use in practice.

73. SVB was also expected to adhere to fundamental accounting principles that state a Company's financial statements should be presented in a manner which, among other things, should:

(a) Provide information that is useful to present and potential investors and creditors and other users in making rational investment, credit and similar decisions. (FASCON 1 ¶ 34);

(b) Provide information about an enterprise's economic resources, obligations, and owners' equity. That information helps investors, creditors, and others identify the enterprise's financial strengths and weaknesses and assess its liquidity and solvency. (FASCON 1 ¶ 40);

(c) Provide information about an enterprise's financial performance during a period. "Investors and creditors often use information about the past to help in assessing the prospects of an enterprise. Thus, although investment and credit decisions reflect investors' and creditors' expectations about future enterprise performance, those expectations are commonly based at least partly on evaluations of past enterprise performance." (FASCON 1 ¶ 42);

(d) Include explanations and interpretations to help users understand financial information because management knows more about the enterprise and its affairs than investors, creditors, or other "outsiders" and can often increase the usefulness of financial information by identifying certain transactions, other events, and circumstances that affect the enterprise and explaining their financial impact on it. (FASCON 1 ¶ 54);

(e) Be reliable in that it represents what it purports to represent. That information should be reliable as well as relevant is a notion that is central to accounting. (FASCON 2 ¶¶ 58-59);

(f) Be complete, which means that nothing material is left out of the information that may be necessary to ensure that it validly represents underlying events and conditions. (FASCON 2 ¶ 79);

(g) Be verifiable in that it provides a significant degree of assurance that accounting measures represent what they purport to represent. (FASCON 2 ¶ 81); and

(h) Reflect that conservatism be used as a prudent reaction to uncertainty to try to ensure that uncertainties and risks inherent in business situations are adequately considered. (FASCON 2 ¶¶ 95, 97).

1 74. SVB was subject to risks associated with depository and lending institutions. One  
2 such risk factor identified by the AICPA in the applicable AAG was “significant declines in customer  
3 demand and increasing business failures in either the industry or overall economy,” including  
4 “deteriorating economic conditions . . . within industries or geographic regions in which the  
5 institution has significant credit concentrations.” (Ch. 5, Audit Considerations and Certain Financial  
6 Reporting Matters, Ex. 5-1, Fraud Risk Factors).

7 75. The AAG identifies another risk factor for lenders as occurring when “[v]acant staff  
8 positions remain unfulfilled for extended periods, thereby preventing the proper segregation of  
9 duties,” and when there exists an “[u]nderstaffed accounting or information technology department,  
10 inexperienced or ineffective accounting or information technology personnel, or high turnover.”

11 76. Among the risk factors the AICPA identifies are “concentration in a particular type  
12 of financial instrument” and “a failure by management and those charged with governance to set  
13 parameters (for example, trading limits, credit limits, and aggregate market risk limits) and to  
14 continuously monitor trading activities against those parameters.”

15 77. ASC 450 (formerly Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 5, Accounting  
16 for Contingencies) defines a loss contingency as “an existing condition, situation, or set of  
17 circumstances involving uncertainty as to [a] possible . . . loss to an enterprise that will *ultimately*  
18 *be resolved when one or more future events occur or fail to occur.*” Under ASC 450, a charge to  
19 income should be taken if “(1) Information (before financial statements are issued) indicates that it  
20 is probable that an asset has been impaired or a liability incurred at the date of the financial statement;  
21 and (2) Amount of loss is reasonably estimable. Further, ASC 450 requires disclosure in the  
22 footnotes to the financial statements for material loss contingencies and/or significant risks and  
23 uncertainties. The occurrence, or non-occurrence, of a future event meets the definition of a loss  
24 contingency under GAAP. Under ASC 450, disclosing a loss contingency in the notes to the financial  
25 statements is *required* when there is more than a remote chance that a loss will be incurred (even in  
26 the event that a reliable estimate of eventual losses cannot be made at the time). The threshold for  
27 disclosure of a loss contingency (as opposed to a higher threshold for the *accrual* of a loss  
28 contingency) is very low – GAAP requires disclosure if, “[t]he chance of the future event or events



1 *occurring is more than remote but less than likely.*” Under ASC 450: “*The disclosure shall indicate*  
2 *the nature of the contingency and shall give an estimate of the possible loss or range of loss or*  
3 *state that such an estimate cannot be made.*” Defendants failed to account or disclose the loss  
4 contingencies SVB faced, including from material market risks, including interest rate risk,  
5 uninsured depositor risk and liquidity risks.

6 78. Contrary to Defendants’ representations in the Offering Materials, SVB’s  
7 incorporated financial statements and other disclosures were not in compliance with GAAP. In  
8 numerous respects, SVB had violated GAAP, including the standards detailed above, including by  
9 failing to properly account for the following matters. The Offering Materials failed to disclose that  
10 higher interest rates jeopardized the bank’s future earnings but that instead of mitigating such risks,  
11 the bank doubled down on a strategy of investing in long-term investments to deliver short-term  
12 profits. Moreover, the Offering Materials failed to disclose that despite internal recommendations at  
13 the bank to purchase shorter-term bonds as it took in more deposits, to offset the material risk of  
14 losses from rising interest rates, SVB’s executives focused on short-term profits and disregarded  
15 duration risks despite pleas from employees to hedge SVB’s balance sheet with shorter duration  
16 bonds. Additionally, the Offering Materials failed to disclose that Defendants ignored internal  
17 alarms, failed to comply with key risk metrics, and engineered assumptions to internal models that  
18 showed that higher interest rates could devastate SVB’s future earnings, using unreasonable and  
19 improper tweaks to the model to validate SVB’s profit-driven strategy. Further, the Offering  
20 Materials failed to provide requisite quantitative disclosures to reflect reasonably possible near-term  
21 changes to interest rates, thereby misrepresenting and failing to disclose the critical change in the  
22 Company’s market risk exposure, including interest rate risk, as well as how it would manage such  
23 risk. The Offering Materials also failed to disclose that SVB lacked effective internal controls, had  
24 poor risk management, its holding Company was rated as deficient under the CAMELS rating  
25 system, regulators had warned SVB that its risk management systems were inadequate and below  
26 the Federal Reserve’s expectations, and SVB was riddled with many serious operational and  
27 technological problems that impeded Defendants’ ability to track risks, including interest rate risks,  
28 among other matters. Further still, the Offering Materials failed to disclose that SVB lacked a

1 diversified customer base and that a large percentage of the deposits of that non-diversified customer  
2 base were uninsured and therefore much more likely to trigger a run on the bank. Indeed, SVB failed  
3 to disclose that its startup clients' deposits—the primary source of the Company's liquidity—were  
4 particularly sensitive to interest rates: higher interest rates result in lower overall investment in  
5 startups and therefore lower deposits in Silicon Valley Bank. Accordingly, the Offering Materials  
6 failed to disclose the extent and severity of the undisclosed material market risks, including interest  
7 rate risk, uninsured depositor risk and liquidity risks that SVB faced.

8 **The Offering Materials Falsely Represented that SVB's Internal Controls Over**  
9 **Financial Reporting Were Effective Despite Pervasive Operational and Technological**  
10 **Issues, Including Critical Problems Tracking Interest Rate Risk**

11 79. SVB falsely asserted in its Offering Documents that it maintained effective internal  
12 controls over financial reporting. In fact, SVB lacked effective internal controls and the absence of  
13 such controls facilitated SVB misrepresenting, among other matters, that:

14 (a) It was exposed to significantly less risk, including market risk such as interest  
15 rate risk, liquidity risk, and uninsured depositor risk, than was inherent in the assets it held;

16 (b) Its risk management personnel and procedures were effective and reliable,  
17 when they were not;

18 (c) It was able to make reasonable estimates of the fair value of its financial  
19 instruments; and

20 (d) The fair value of the Company's financial instruments and other assets was  
21 reasonable.

22 80. The Committee of Sponsoring Organizations ("COSO") defines "internal controls"  
23 in Chapter 1 of its Framework as follows:

24 Internal control is a process, effected by an entity's board of directors, management  
25 and other personnel, designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the  
26 achievement of objectives in the following categories: (i) Effectiveness and efficiency  
27 of operations; (ii) Reliability of financial reporting; (iii) Compliance with applicable  
28 laws and regulations.

81. Moreover, COSO emphasizes the importance of a strong control environment, which  
sets a positive "tone at the top" and then flows down through the Company. The COSO Framework

1 Executive Summary identifies the pervasive influence that the control environment has on the  
2 Company, as follows:

3 The control environment sets the tone of an organization, influencing the control  
4 consciousness of its people. It is the foundation for all other components of internal  
5 control, providing discipline and structure. Control environment factors include the  
6 integrity, ethical values and competence of the entity's people; management's  
7 philosophy and operating style; the way management assigns authority and  
8 responsibility, and organizes and develops its people; and the attention and direction  
9 provided by the board of directors.

10 82. In addition, the COSO Framework, Ch. 2, establishes that management's philosophy  
11 and operating style directly affects the manner in which the company is managed, the amount of risk  
12 that the company accepts and ultimately the success of the company. Chapter 2 of the COSO  
13 Framework states:

14 Management's philosophy and operating style affect the way the enterprise is  
15 managed, including the kinds of business risks accepted...Other elements of  
16 management's philosophy and operating style include attitudes toward financial  
17 reporting, conservative or aggressive selection from available alternative accounting  
18 principles, conscientiousness and conservatism with which accounting estimates are  
19 developed, and attitudes toward data processing and accounting functions and  
20 personnel. . . . The impact of an ineffective control environment could be far reaching,  
21 possibly resulting in a financial loss, a tarnished public image or a business failure.

22 83. Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 ("the Sarbanes-Oxley Act") requires  
23 management to assess the effectiveness of the internal control structure and the financial reporting  
24 for procedures. Management is responsible for performing this assessment in the context of a top-  
25 down risk assessment, which requires management to base both the scope of its assessment and the  
26 evidence gathered on risk. Management's conclusion of its assessment of the effectiveness of the  
27 Company's internal control must be included in the Company's annual report. Moreover, it was  
28 crucial for SVB to regularly monitor those controls to verify their operating effectiveness.

84. Further, SEC rules require management to report publicly all material weaknesses in  
the Company's internal controls.

85. Defendants Becker and Beck were required under Rule 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley  
Act to provide assurances relating to the Company's "internal control over financial reporting." Rule  
302 states as follows:

1 [E]ach annual report . . . [should] contain an internal control report, which shall: (1)  
2 state the responsibility of management for establishing and maintaining an adequate  
3 internal control structure and procedures for financial reporting; and (2) contain an  
4 assessment, as of the end of the most recent fiscal year of the issuer, of the  
effectiveness of the internal control structure and procedures of the issuer for financial  
reporting.

5 86. In connection with the Offering Materials, Defendants Becker and Beck executed the  
6 applicable Rule 302 certification on March 1, 2021.

7 87. As explained above and in the Company's regulatory filings, in doing so Defendants  
8 Becker and Beck represented to the marketplace that their assessment of internal controls over  
9 financial reporting was reliable and based upon the framework established by COSO. Also,  
10 Defendants Becker and Beck stated in the Company's Form 10-K filings that "management  
11 concluded that the Company's internal control over financial reporting was effective as of" the year  
12 ended 2020. These statements were false because: SVB lacked effective internal controls, including  
13 over market rate risk, interest rate risk, uninsured deposit liability risk and liquidity risk; engaged in  
14 poor risk management; its holding Company was rated as deficient under the CAMELS rating  
15 system; federal regulators had warned SVB that its risk management systems were inadequate and  
16 below the Federal Reserve's expectations; SVB was riddled with many serious operational and  
17 technological problems, impairing Defendants' ability to track risks, including interest rate risks,  
18 among other matters; and Defendants ignored internal alarms, failed to comply with key risk metrics,  
19 and engineered new assumptions to internal models that showed that higher interest rates could  
20 devastate SVB's future earnings, to facilitate SVB's profit-driven strategy. Thus, because SVB's  
21 internal controls were ineffective, management's reports on internal control over financial reporting,  
22 required by Rule 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, were materially false and misleading. Defendants  
23 Becker's and Beck's statements were false and misleading because SVB's internal controls were  
24 significantly deficient and ineffective to prevent or detect errors or misstatements in its operations  
25 and financial reporting.

26 88. Management's assessment of internal control over financial reporting was a  
27 significant matter for investors because it provided assurance that the Company's financial  
28 statements were reliable and in compliance with applicable laws. However, SVB did not properly

1 assess its internal controls over financial reporting; it consequently violated the “Internal Control-  
2 Integrated Framework” issued by COSO and various other requirements found in the SEC  
3 regulations and Sarbanes-Oxley Act.

4 89. The Offering Materials failed to disclose that in January 2019, regulators warned SVB  
5 that its risk management systems were inadequate, and also warned SVB in 2020 that its risk  
6 management systems were below the Federal Reserve’s expectations. As reported by *The Wall Street*  
7 *Journal* on March 19, 2023:

8 The Federal Reserve raised concerns about risk management at Silicon Valley Bank  
9 starting at least four years before its failure earlier this month, documents show.

10 In January 2019, the Fed issued a warning to SVB over its risk-management systems,  
11 according to a presentation circulated last year to employees of SVB’s venture-capital  
arm, which was viewed by The Wall Street Journal.

12 The Fed issued what it calls a Matter Requiring Attention, a type of citation that is less  
13 severe than an enforcement action. Regulators are supposed to make sure the problem  
is addressed, but it couldn’t be learned if the Fed held SVB to that standard in 2019.

14 \* \* \*

15 Following the 2019 warning, the Fed informed SVB in 2020 that its system to control  
16 risk didn’t meet the expectations for a large financial institution, or a bank holding  
17 company with more than \$100 billion in assets, the presentation to employees at SVB’s  
venture-capital arm said.

18 Large banks that don’t meet the Fed’s expectations are supposed to take corrective  
19 action to fix the problems or potentially face enforcement actions.

20 At that time, the bank was growing quickly as deposits poured in during the early  
21 months of the pandemic. The average level of interest-earning assets grew 76% in the  
22 first quarter of 2021, compared with the same period one year earlier, the presentation  
said.

23 The bank’s assets rose to \$114 billion at the end of 2020, from about \$70 billion in  
24 2019, the year the Fed voiced its concerns. They nearly doubled from 2020 to the end  
of 2021 to about \$209 billion, according to Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. data.

25 The Fed’s criticism of SVB’s risk-management systems raises the question of "why  
26 were they allowed to double their size after that," said Keith Noreika, an executive  
27  
28

1 vice president at Patomak Global Partners who served as acting Comptroller of the  
2 Currency in 2017.<sup>9</sup>

3 90. The Offering Materials failed to disclose that SVB lacked effective internal controls  
4 to reduce the risk of material losses from quickly rising interest rates:

5 In late 2020, the firm's asset-liability committee received an internal recommendation  
6 to buy shorter-term bonds as more deposits flowed in, according to documents viewed  
7 by Bloomberg. That shift would reduce the risk of sizable losses if interest rates  
quickly rose. But it would have a cost: an estimated \$18 million reduction in earnings,  
with a \$36 million hit going forward from there.

8 Executives balked. Instead, the company continued to plow cash into higher-yielding  
9 assets. That helped profit jump 52% to a record in 2021 and helped the firm's valuation  
10 soar past \$40 billion. But as rates soared in 2022, the firm racked up more than \$16  
billion of unrealized losses on its bond holdings.

11 Throughout last year, some employees pleaded to reposition the company's balance  
12 sheet into shorter duration bonds. The asks were repeatedly rejected, according to a  
13 person familiar with the conversations. The firm did start to put on some hedges and  
sell assets late last year, but the moves proved too late.<sup>10</sup>

14 91. The Offering Materials also failed to disclose that SVB had many serious operational  
15 and technological problems and weaknesses which examiners appointed by the Federal Reserve  
16 Bank of San Francisco identified, and that triggered formal warnings to SVB's executives. As  
17 reported by Bloomberg on March 17, 2023:

18 Just over a year before Silicon Valley Bank's collapse threatened a generation of  
19 technology startups and their backers, the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco  
20 appointed a more senior team of examiners to assess the firm. They started calling out  
problem after problem.

21 As the upgraded crew took over, it fired off a series of formal warnings to the bank's  
22 leaders, pressing them to fix serious weaknesses in operations and technology,  
23 according to people with knowledge of the matter.

24  
25  
26 <sup>9</sup> <https://www.wsj.com/articles/fed-raised-concerns-about-svbs-risk-management-in-2019-4a1d802c>

27 <sup>10</sup> <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-03-13/svb-failure-sparks-blame-game-over-trump-era-regulatory-rollback#xj4y7vzkg>  
28

1 Then late last year they flagged a critical problem: The bank needed to improve how  
2 it tracked interest-rate risks, one of the people said, an issue at the heart of its abrupt  
downfall this month.<sup>11</sup>

3 92. The Offering Materials also failed to disclose that SVB had critical problems in  
4 tracking interest rate risk including billions of dollars in unrealized losses. As Bloomberg reported  
5 on March 31, 2023, Federal Reserve examiners identified this “critical problem” at SVB in late 2022:

6 Late last year, Fed examiners identified a critical problem: the bank needed to improve  
7 how it tracked interest-rate risks. The firm had about \$15 billion in unrealized losses  
8 at year-end on mortgage-backed securities that it loaded up when rates were lower.<sup>12</sup>

9 93. By 2021, as well, SVB’s liquidity problems were clear to insiders. According to *The*  
10 *New York Times*, in 2021, “[s]upervisors at the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, which  
11 oversaw Silicon Valley Bank, issued six citations” designated as “matters requiring attention”  
12 (MRAs) or “matters requiring immediate attention” (MRIAs). The warnings “flagged that the firm  
13 was doing a bad job of ensuring that it would have enough easy-to-tap cash on hand in the event of  
14 trouble.” The article stated in part:

15 Silicon Valley Bank’s risky practices were on the Federal Reserve’s radar for more  
than a year — an awareness that proved insufficient to stop the bank’s demise.

16 The Fed repeatedly warned the bank that it had problems, according to a person  
17 familiar with the matter.

18 In 2021, a Fed review of the growing bank found serious weaknesses in how it was  
19 handling key risks. Supervisors at the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, which  
20 oversaw Silicon Valley Bank, issued six citations. Those warnings, known as “matters  
21 requiring attention” and “matters requiring immediate attention,” flagged that the firm  
was doing a bad job of ensuring that it would have enough easy-to-tap cash on hand  
in the event of trouble.

22 But the bank did not fix its vulnerabilities. By July 2022, Silicon Valley Bank was in  
23 a full supervisory review — getting a more careful look — and was ultimately rated  
24 deficient for governance and controls. It was placed under a set of restrictions that  
prevented it from growing through acquisitions. Last autumn, staff members from the

25 <sup>11</sup> [https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-03-17/fed-alarms-at-svb-began-more-than-year-](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-03-17/fed-alarms-at-svb-began-more-than-year-ago-as-examiners-changed)  
26 [ago-as-examiners-changed](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-03-17/fed-alarms-at-svb-began-more-than-year-ago-as-examiners-changed)

27 <sup>12</sup> [https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-03-21/svb-s-loans-to-insiders-tripled-to-219-](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-03-21/svb-s-loans-to-insiders-tripled-to-219-million-before-it-failed?re_source=boa_related)  
28 [million-before-it-failed?re\\_source=boa\\_related](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-03-21/svb-s-loans-to-insiders-tripled-to-219-million-before-it-failed?re_source=boa_related)



1 San Francisco Fed met with senior leaders at the firm to talk about their ability to gain  
2 access to enough cash in a crisis and possible exposure to losses as interest rates rose.

3 It became clear to the Fed that the firm was using bad models to determine how its  
4 business would fare as the central bank raised rates: Its leaders were assuming that  
5 higher interest revenue would substantially help their financial situation as rates went  
6 up, but that was out of step with reality.

7 \* \* \*

8 The picture that is emerging is one of a bank whose leaders failed to plan for a realistic  
9 future and neglected looming financial and operational problems, even as they were  
10 raised by Fed supervisors. For instance, according to a person familiar with the matter,  
11 executives at the firm were told of cybersecurity problems both by internal employees  
12 and by the Fed — but ignored the concerns.<sup>13</sup>

13 94. The Federal Reserve describes MRAs as “a call for action to address weaknesses that  
14 could lead to deterioration in a banking organization’s soundness. MRAs are confidential and not  
15 publicly issued.”

16 95. The Federal Reserve describes MRIAs as “a call for more immediate action to address  
17 acute or protracted weaknesses that could lead to further deterioration in a banking organization’s  
18 soundness, may result in harm to consumers, or have caused, or could lead to, noncompliance with  
19 laws and regulations. MRIAs are confidential and not publicly issued.”

20 96. Although the MRAs and MRIAs issued by SVB’s primary regulator—as well as the  
21 risk management failings that led to them—were apparent to SVB, investors remained in the dark.

22 **The Offering Materials Violated Affirmative Disclosure Obligations Under SEC**  
23 **Regulation S-K**

24 97. Regulation S-K, Item 305, sets forth quantitative and qualitative disclosure  
25 requirements regarding market risk, including interest rate risk.

26 98. As to quantitative disclosures about market risk, Item 305(a) provides registrants  
27 three disclosure alternatives: (1) tabular presentation of fair values of the market risk sensitive  
28 instruments and contract terms sufficient to determine future cash flows from those instruments,  
categorized by expected maturity dates; (2) sensitivity analysis disclosures that express the potential

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/03/19/business/economy/fed-silicon-valley-bank.html>



1 loss in future earnings, fair values, or cash flows of market risk sensitive instruments resulting from  
2 one or more selected hypothetical changes in interest rates, foreign currency exchange rates,  
3 commodity prices, and other relevant market rates or prices over a selected period of time: or (3)  
4 value at risk disclosures that express the potential loss in future earnings, fair values, or cash flows  
5 of market risk sensitive instruments over a selected period of time, with a selected likelihood of  
6 occurrence, from changes in interest rates, foreign currency exchange rates, commodity prices, and  
7 other relevant market rates or prices. 17 C.F.R. § 229.305(a)(1)(i)-(iii).

8 99. For sensitivity analysis disclosures, Item 305(a)(1)(ii) requires registrants to describe  
9 the model, assumptions, and parameters necessary to understand the sensitivity analysis disclosures.  
10 The instructions to sensitivity analysis disclosures under paragraph 305(a)(1)(ii) make clear that  
11 “Registrants should select *hypothetical changes in market rates or prices that are expected to*  
12 *reflect reasonably possible near-term changes in those rates and prices*. In this regard, absent  
13 economic justification for the selection of a different amount, registrants should use changes that are  
14 not less than 10 percent of end of period market rates or prices.” The same instructions state that “the  
15 term reasonably possible has the same meaning as defined by generally accepted accounting  
16 principles (*see, e.g., FASB ASC Master Glossary*). The FASB ASC Master Glossary defines  
17 “reasonably possible” as “[t]he chance of the future event or events occurring is more than remote  
18 but less than likely.” Moreover, the same instructions state: “For purposes of instruction 3.A. of the  
19 Instructions to Paragraph 305(a), the term near term means a period of time going forward up to one  
20 year from the date of the financial statements (*see FASB ASC Master Glossary*).”

21 100. The instructions to Item 305(a)(1)(ii) also set forth the following requirements:

22 Model, assumptions, and parameters that should be described include, but are not  
23 limited to, how *loss* is defined by the model (*e.g., loss in earnings, fair values, or cash*  
24 *flows*), a general description of the modeling technique (*e.g., duration modeling,*  
25 *modeling that measures the change in net present values arising from selected*  
26 *hypothetical changes in market rates or prices, and a description as to how optionality*  
27 *is addressed by the model*), the types of instruments covered by the model (*e.g.,*  
28 *derivative financial instruments, other financial instruments, derivative commodity*  
*instruments, and whether other instruments are included voluntarily, such as certain*  
*commodity instruments and positions, cash flows from anticipated transactions, and*  
*certain financial instruments excluded under instruction 3.C.ii. of the General*  
*Instructions to Paragraphs 305(a) and 305(b), and other relevant information about the*

1 model's assumptions and parameters, (e.g., the magnitude and timing of selected  
2 hypothetical changes in market rates or prices used, the method by which discount  
rates are determined, and key prepayment or reinvestment assumptions).

3 101. Contrary to these requirements, the Offering Materials failed to disclose that  
4 Defendants ignored internal alarms, failed to comply with key risk metrics, and engineered  
5 assumptions to internal models that showed that higher interest rates likely would devastate SVB's  
6 future earnings, making unreasonable and improper tweaks to the model to validate and advance  
7 SVB's profit-driven strategy.

8 102. As to qualitative disclosures about market risk, Item 305(b) requires registrants to  
9 describe, to the extent material, market risks including interest rate risk:

10 (i) The registrant's primary market risk exposures;

11 (ii) How those exposures are managed. Such descriptions shall include, but not be  
12 limited to, a discussion of the objectives, general strategies, and instruments, if any,  
13 used to manage those exposures; and

14 (iii) Changes in either the registrant's primary market risk exposures or how those  
15 exposures are managed, when compared to what was in effect during the most recently  
16 completed fiscal year and what is known or expected to be in effect in future reporting  
17 periods.

18 103. The instructions accompanying Item 305(b) make clear that "primary market risk  
19 exposure" includes "interest rate risk," stating:

20 1. For purposes of disclosure under paragraph 305(b), primary market risk exposures  
21 means:

22 A. The following categories of market risk: interest rate risk, foreign currency  
23 exchange rate risk, commodity price risk, and other relevant market rate or  
24 price risks (e.g., equity price risk); and

25 B. Within each of these categories, the particular markets that present the  
26 primary risk of loss to the registrant. For example, if a registrant has a material  
27 exposure to foreign currency exchange rate risk and, within this category of  
28 market risk, is most vulnerable to changes in dollar/yen, dollar/pound, and  
dollar/peso exchange rates, the registrant should disclose those exposures.  
Similarly, ***if a registrant has a material exposure to interest rate risk and,  
within this category of market risk, is most vulnerable to changes in short-  
term U.S. prime interest rates, it should disclose the existence of that  
exposure.***

1 2. For purposes of disclosure under paragraph 305(b), registrants should describe  
2 primary market risk exposures that exist as of the end of the latest fiscal year, and how  
those exposures are managed.

3 104. As to the materiality assessment required under Item 305, the accompanying  
4 instructions make clear that registrants should evaluate:

5 i. The materiality of the fair values of derivative financial instruments, other  
6 financial instruments, and derivative commodity instruments outstanding as of  
the end of the latest fiscal year; and

7 ii. The materiality of potential, near-term losses in future earnings, fair values,  
8 and/or cash flows from reasonably possible near-term changes in market rates  
9 or prices.

10 iii. If either paragraphs B.i. or B.ii. in this instruction of the General  
11 Instructions to Paragraphs 305(a) and 305(b) are material, the registrant should  
disclose quantitative and qualitative information about market risk, if such  
12 market risk for the particular market risk exposure category is material.

13 105. In conducting the materiality assessment, moreover, “registrants generally should not  
14 net fair values, except to the extent allowed under generally accepted accounting principles,” and  
15 “registrants should consider, among other things, the magnitude of:

16 i. Past market movements;

17 ii. Reasonably possible, near-term market movements; and

18 iii. Potential losses that may arise from leverage, option, and multiplier  
19 features.”

20 106. The SEC’s Office of the Chief Accountant and the Division of Corporation Finance  
21 have provided the following guidance on determining whether its market risk exposures are material  
22 enough to require the quantitative and qualitative disclosures under Item 305:

23 To determine if the quantitative and qualitative disclosures must be furnished, a  
company must perform the following procedure:

24 Step 1: Categorize its market risk sensitive instruments into two portfolios:  
25 instruments entered into for trading purposes, and all other instruments.

26 Step 2: further categorize instruments within the two portfolios by type of market risk  
27 exposure category (interest rate risk, foreign currency exchange rate risk, commodity  
28 price risk, etc.).

1 Step 3: the company must assess the materiality of the market risk exposure for each  
2 category within each portfolio. ***This assessment must evaluate both (1) the materiality***  
3 ***of the fair values of market sensitive instruments as of the end of the latest fiscal***  
4 ***year, and (2) the materiality of potential, near-term losses in future earnings, fair***  
5 ***values and cash flows from reasonably possible near-term changes in market rates***  
6 ***or prices. If either is material, then the company should disclose the quantitative***  
7 ***and qualitative information for that particular market risk exposure.*** For these tests,  
8 registrants should not net favorable and unfavorable fair values, except where allowed  
9 under generally accepted accounting principles.

10 For example, assume a company has both a trading and non-trading portfolio. Each  
11 portfolio contains instruments that expose the company to changes in interest rates,  
12 foreign currency exchange rates, and commodity prices.

13 The company initially determines whether the fair values of market risk sensitive  
14 instruments were material at period end. If they were material, disclosure is material.  
15 If the fair values at period end were not material, the company would assess whether  
16 the interest rate sensitive instruments in its trading portfolio create a material exposure  
17 to changes in interest rates. That assessment should be made based on of [sic] fair  
18 values, cash flows, or earnings. If any of those measures is material, the company  
19 would provide quantitative information regarding its interest rate sensitive trading  
20 portfolio. Similar assessments are necessary for interest rate sensitive instruments in  
21 its non-trading portfolio, and all other exposures.

22 Quantitative disclosures are required only for material exposures. Thus, if the  
23 company's only material exposure is to changes in interest rates in its trading portfolio,  
24 it must present quantitative information only for that specific exposure. Quantitative  
25 disclosures about other, immaterial exposures are elective.<sup>14</sup>

26 107. With respect to sensitivity analysis disclosures, the SEC's Office of the Chief  
27 Accountant and the Division of Corporation Finance further directed that:

28 Companies using sensitivity analysis should select hypothetical changes in market  
rates or prices that are expected to reflect reasonably possible near-term changes in  
those rates and prices. Companies should use changes not less than 10% of end-of-  
period market rates or prices unless there is economic justification for a different  
amount. The rule provides that the magnitude of selected hypothetical changes in rates  
or prices may differ among and within market risk exposure categories.<sup>15</sup>

\* \* \*

Companies must select hypothetical changes in market rates or prices that are expected  
to reflect reasonably possible near-term changes in those rates and prices. The rules

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.sec.gov/divisions/corpfin/guidance/derivfaq.htm>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.sec.gov/divisions/corpfin/guidance/derivfaq.htm>

1 specified the use of a change that is not less than 10%, unless there is justification for  
2 using another amount. If a company has sufficient historical data indicating that a  
3 reasonably possible near-term change will be an amount less than 10%, it may use that  
amount. The Company should disclose why it chose a hypothetical change less than  
10%.

4 108. The SEC's Office of the Chief Accountant and the Division of Corporation Finance  
5 also made clear that Item 305 requires the following qualitative disclosures about market risks:

6 Qualitative disclosure about interest rate risk in a non-trading portfolio would include:

7 1) the nature of the interest rate exposure,

8 2) how interest rate risks are managed,

9 3) changes in interest rate exposures or how the interest rate exposures were managed  
10 when compared to the conditions that existed during the most recently completed fiscal  
11 year, and

12 4) known trends in interest rates, or anticipated rates in future reporting periods.

13 109. The Offering Materials failed to provide the required disclosures under Item 305. The  
14 quantitative disclosures violated Item 305 because they failed to reflect "reasonably possible near  
15 term changes." Instead, SVB used only a maximum 200 bps rate increase. It was reasonably possible  
16 at the time of the Offering Materials that the Federal Reserve would (as it ultimately did) raise  
17 interest rates to a greater degree.

18 110. The Offering Materials qualitative disclosures also violated Item 305, as they  
19 misrepresented and failed to disclose the critical change in the Company's market risk exposure,  
20 including interest rate risk, as well as how it would manage such risk. Further, the Offering Materials  
21 failed to disclose that Defendants ignored internal alarms, failed to comply with key risk metrics,  
22 and engineered assumptions to internal models that showed that higher interest rates could devastate  
23 SVB's future earnings, making unreasonable and improper tweaks to the model to validate and  
24 advance SVB's profit-driven strategy.

25 111. SEC Regulation S-K, Item 105, requires disclosure of "material" risk factors. As  
26 detailed therein, the "Risk Factor" section of the Offering Materials must "provide under the caption  
27 'Risk Factors' a discussion of the material factors that make an investment in the registrant or  
28

1 offering speculative or risky.” 17 C.F.R. § 229.105.<sup>16</sup> Item 105 requires disclosure of the risks to  
2 which reasonable investors would attach importance in making investment or voting decisions.  
3 Contrary to Item 105’s requirements, the Offering Materials failed to disclose that higher interest  
4 rates would jeopardize the bank’s future earnings but that, instead of mitigating such risks, the  
5 Company had doubled down on a strategy to deliver short-term profits. Further, the Offering  
6 Materials failed to disclose that despite internal recommendations to purchase shorter-term bonds as  
7 more deposits flowed in, to offset the material risk of losses from rising interest rates, SVB’s  
8 executives focused on short-term profits, and disregarded duration risks despite strong  
9 recommendations from employees to prudently hedge SVB’s balance sheet with shorter duration  
10 bonds. Further still, the Offering Materials failed to disclose that Defendants ignored internal alarms,  
11 failed to comply with key risk metrics, and engineered assumptions to internal models that showed  
12 that higher interest rates could devastate SVB’s future earnings, using unreasonable and improper  
13 tweaks to the model to validate SVB’s profit-driven strategy. Additionally, the Offering Materials  
14 failed to disclose that SVB lacked effective internal controls and was riddled with many serious  
15 operational and technological problems, plaguing Defendants’ ability to track risks, including  
16 interest rate risks. Moreover, the Offering Materials failed to disclose that SVB lacked a diversified  
17 customer base and that a large percentage of the deposits of that non-diversified customer base were  
18 uninsured and therefore much more likely to trigger a run on the bank. Indeed, SVB failed to disclose  
19 that its startup clients’ deposits, the primary source of the Company’s liquidity, were especially  
20 sensitive to interest rates: higher interest rates result in lower overall investment in startups and  
21 therefore lower deposits in Silicon Valley Bank. Additionally, SVB never disclosed the relationship  
22 between the interest rate risk in the Company’s deposits and its long-term debt security assets.  
23 Moreover, SVB also failed to disclose that SVB largely did *not* manage its interest rate risk in its  
24 fixed-income securities portfolio—in fact, it faced enormous interest rate risk from that portfolio.  
25 And it made grossly inadequate use of derivatives or other hedging strategies, such as interest rate  
26 swaps, to mitigate interest rate risk. While the Offering Materials’ discussion of risk factors listed

27 \_\_\_\_\_  
28 <sup>16</sup> Before April 2, 2019, current Item 105 was Item 503(c).

1 market and liquidity risks in vague and generic terms, it did not even mention the actual material  
2 risks posed by the foregoing, much less adequately describe those risks as required by Item 105.

3 112. SEC Regulation S-K, Item 303, requires that management's discussion and analysis  
4 (MD&A) "[i]dentify any known trends or any known demands, commitments, events or  
5 uncertainties that will result in or that are reasonably likely to result in the registrant's liquidity  
6 increasing or decreasing in any material way" and "[d]escribe any known trends or uncertainties that  
7 have had or that are reasonably likely to have a material favorable or unfavorable impact on net sales  
8 or revenues or income from continuing operations." 17 C.F.R. § 229.303. Contrary to Item 303's  
9 requirements, the Offering Materials failed to disclose the material market risks, including the  
10 interest rate risk, uninsured depositor risk and liquidity risk that SVB faced, and which resulted in,  
11 and were reasonably likely to result in, SVB's liquidity materially decreasing and having a materially  
12 unfavorable impact on SVB's revenues and income. As detailed herein, the Offering Materials failed  
13 to disclose that higher interest rates jeopardized the bank's future earnings but that, instead of  
14 mitigating such risks, the bank had doubled down on a strategy to deliver short-term profits. Further,  
15 the Offering Materials failed to disclose that despite internal recommendations to purchase shorter-  
16 term bonds as more deposits flowed in to offset the material risk of losses from rising interest rates,  
17 SVB's executives focused on short-term profits, disregarding duration risks despite pleas from  
18 employees to hedge SVB's balance sheet with shorter duration bonds. Further still, the Offering  
19 Materials failed to disclose that Defendants ignored internal alarms, failed to comply with key risk  
20 metrics, and engineered assumptions to internal models that showed that higher interest rates could  
21 devastate SVB's future earnings, using unreasonable and improper tweaks to the model to validate  
22 SVB's profit-driven strategy. Additionally, the Offering Materials failed to disclose that SVB lacked  
23 effective internal controls and was riddled with many serious operational and technological  
24 problems, plaguing Defendants' ability to track risks, including interest rate risks. Moreover, the  
25 Offering Materials failed to disclose that SVB lacked a diversified customer base and that a large  
26 percentage of the deposits of that non-diversified customer base were uninsured and therefore much  
27 more likely to seek to withdraw their money *en masse*. Indeed, SVB failed to disclose that its startup  
28 clients' deposits, the primary source of the Company's liquidity, were especially sensitive to interest



1 rates: higher interest rates result in lower overall investment in startups and therefore lower deposits  
2 in Silicon Valley Bank. Additionally, SVB never disclosed the relationship between the interest rate  
3 risk in the Company's deposits and its long-term debt security assets. SVB also failed to disclose  
4 that SVB largely did *not* manage its interest rate risk in its fixed income securities portfolio—in fact,  
5 it faced enormous interest rate risk from that portfolio. And it made grossly inadequate use of  
6 derivatives or other hedging strategies, such as interest rate swaps, to mitigate interest rate risk.  
7 Accordingly, the Offering Materials failed to disclose the extent and severity of the undisclosed  
8 material market risks, including interest rate risk, uninsured depositor risk and liquidity risk that  
9 SVB faced. These undisclosed trends, events, and their likely consequences, were known at the time  
10 and thus Item 303 required disclosure.

## 11 **KPMG'S MISCONDUCT**

### 12 **KPMG Overview**

13 113. KPMG audited SVB's financial statements and its system of internal controls over  
14 financial reporting for the year ended December 31, 2020. KPMG also issued and signed audit  
15 opinions in which it certified that KPMG's internal controls were adequate and that the Company's  
16 financial statements were free of material misstatements and fairly presented SVB's financial  
17 position.

18 114. The 2020 10-K includes as Item 8 a "Report of Independent Registered Public  
19 Accounting Firm," signed by KPMG. The KPMG Report states in relevant part:

#### 20 *Opinions on the Consolidated Financial Statements and Internal Control Over* 21 *Financial Reporting*

22 We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of SVB Financial  
23 Group and subsidiaries (the Company) as of December 31, 2020 and 2019, the  
24 related consolidated statements of income, comprehensive income, stockholders'  
25 equity, and cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended  
26 December 31, 2020, and the related notes (collectively, the consolidated financial  
27 statements). We also have audited the Company's internal control over financial  
28 reporting as of December 31, 2020, based on criteria established in *Internal Control*  
– *Integrated Framework (2013)* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring  
Organizations of the Treadway Commission.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present  
fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Company as of



1 December 31, 2020 and 2019, and the results of its operations and its cash flows  
2 for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2020, in  
3 conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. **Also in our**  
4 **opinion, the Company maintained, in all material respects, effective internal**  
5 **control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2020 based on criteria**  
6 **established in *Internal Control – Integrated Framework (2013)* issued by the**  
7 **Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission.**

8 (bolding added; italics in original).

9 115. KPMG consented to the incorporation by reference of its above-described report  
10 concerning the effectiveness of SVB’s internal controls into the Offering Materials. Specifically, the  
11 Offering Materials included as an exhibit a “Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting  
12 Firm” that provides in relevant part:

13 We consent to the use of our report dated March 1, 2021, with respect to the  
14 consolidated balance sheets of SVB Financial Group as of December 31, 2020 and  
15 2019, the related consolidated statements of income, comprehensive income,  
16 stockholders’ equity, and cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period  
17 ended December 31, 2020, and the related notes, and the effectiveness of internal  
18 control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2020, incorporated herein by  
19 reference and to the reference to our firm under the heading “Experts” in this  
20 prospectus.

21 116. KPMG’s unqualified opinions on SVB’s financial statements, incorporated by  
22 reference into the Offering Materials, were materially false and misleading. Contrary to its  
23 representations, KPMG’s audits of those financial statements were not conducted in accordance with  
24 Generally Accepted Auditing Standards (“GAAS”) or Public Company Accounting Oversight Board  
25 (“PCAOB”) standards, and SVB’s financial condition and results of operations were not presented  
26 in conformity with GAAP. These representations were materially false and misleading because, as  
27 set forth above, SVB’s financial statements for FY2020 did not present fairly, in all material respects  
28 the Company’s results of operations or its financial condition in accordance with GAAP. Further, in  
certifying SVB’s financial statements and internal controls, KPMG specifically represented (based  
on its GAAS audit) that the Company maintained effective internal controls over financial reporting  
as of December 31, 2020. In other words, KPMG’s certification represented to investors that it  
purportedly conducted an audit in compliance with GAAS, and that the audit included a factual basis  
to conclude that SVB had effective internal controls. In truth, however, in violation of GAAS, KPMG

1 disregarded the numerous, significant internal control deficiencies. Contrary to its statements,  
2 KPMG's audit did not constitute a reasonable investigation of whether the Company's  
3 management's assessment of internal controls was properly and accurately presented. Alternatively,  
4 to the extent KPMG's statements that it conducted its audit in accordance with GAAS are deemed  
5 statements of opinion or belief, those statements were materially misstated statements of opinion or  
6 belief when made, as set forth herein. Further, KPMG omitted to inform investors that its audit did  
7 not show a sufficient factual basis to conclude that SVB had effective internal controls.

8 117. In issuing unqualified audit opinions and consenting to their incorporation in SVB's  
9 SEC filings, KPMG made false and misleading statements in violation of Section 11 of the Securities  
10 Act.

11 **Overview of GAAS**

12 118. As SVB's external auditor, KPMG was required to audit the Company's financial  
13 statements and the effectiveness of SVB's internal controls over financial reporting in accordance  
14 with GAAS.

15 119. The PCAOB, established by the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, is responsible for the  
16 development of auditing and related professional practice standards that are required to be followed  
17 by registered public accounting firms. On April 16, 2003, the PCAOB adopted as its interim  
18 standards GAAS as described by the AICPA Auditing Standards Board's SAS No. 95, Generally  
19 Accepted Auditing Standards, and related interpretations in existence on that date. Accordingly, an  
20 auditor's reference to "the standards of the Public Accounting Oversight Board (United States)"  
21 includes a reference to GAAS in existence as of April 16, 2003. For simplicity, all references to  
22 GAAS hereinafter include the standards of the PCAOB. The standards adopted by PCAOB that also  
23 have been approved by the SEC are designated with the prefix "AS." Preexisting interim standards  
24 that have been adopted by the PCAOB are designated by the prefix "AU."

25 120. GAAS is comprised of ten standards that establish the quality of an auditor's  
26 performance and the overall objectives to be achieved in a financial statement audit. Auditors are  
27 required to follow those standards in each and every audit they conduct.

1 121. The GAAS standards fall into three categories: General Standards; Fieldwork  
2 Standards; and Reporting Standards. The General Standards require, among other things, that the  
3 auditor exercise professional skepticism. The General Standards provide guidance to an auditor on  
4 the exercise of due professional care in the performance of the audit. The Field Work Standards  
5 require, among other things, that an auditor obtain a sufficient understanding of the entity's business  
6 and operating environment to properly plan an audit in accordance with GAAS. Finally, the  
7 Reporting Standards require that an auditor express an opinion on the financial statements of a  
8 company taken as a whole, or an assertion to the extent that an opinion cannot be expressed.

9 122. An audit is a risk-based process during which the auditor should exercise due care.  
10 An auditor should be always aware of the risk of misstatements due to fraud or error. As those risks  
11 increase or materialize, auditors are obligated by GAAS and PCAOB standards to alter their audit  
12 procedures accordingly. KPMG failed to recognize glaring risks, and consequently, failed to adjust  
13 its audit procedures, leading to an unqualified audit report that was materially false and misleading.

14 123. KPMG violated GAAS Standard of Reporting No. 1, which requires the audit report  
15 to state whether the financial statements are presented in accordance with GAAP. KPMG's audit  
16 opinion inaccurately represented that SVB's FY2020 Financial Statements were presented in  
17 conformity with GAAP when, as alleged herein, they were not.

18 124. KPMG failed to exercise sufficient professional care in its audits of SVB's financial  
19 statements, and thus violated GAAS General Standard No. 3, which requires due professional care  
20 to be exercised in the performance of the audit and the preparation of the report. AU § 150.02. KPMG  
21 violated General Standard No. 3 by, among other things, disregarding SVB's internal control  
22 deficiencies detailed herein. KPMG also failed to exercise sufficient professional care in its audits  
23 of SVB's financial statements, and thus violated AU § 230, Due Professional Care in the  
24 Performance of Work, which states that "[d]ue professional care imposes a responsibility upon each  
25 professional within an independent auditor's organization to observe the standards of field work and  
26 reporting." AU § 230.02. The duty to exercise due care required KPMG to obtain reasonable  
27 assurances that the financial statements were free from material misstatement, whether caused by  
28 error or fraud. AU § 230.10. KPMG did not obtain such assurances.

1 125. KPMG also failed to exercise sufficient professional skepticism in violation of AU §  
2 316:

3 Due professional care requires the auditor to exercise professional skepticism. Because  
4 of the characteristics of fraud, the auditor's exercise of professional skepticism is  
5 important when considering the fraud risks. Professional skepticism is an attitude that  
6 includes a questioning mind and a critical assessment of audit evidence. The auditor  
7 should conduct the engagement with a mindset that recognizes the possibility that a  
8 material misstatement due to fraud could be present, regardless of any past experience  
9 with the entity and regardless of the auditor's belief about management's honesty and  
10 integrity. Furthermore, professional skepticism requires an ongoing questioning of  
11 whether the information and evidence obtained suggests that a material misstatement  
12 due to fraud has occurred. In exercising professional skepticism in gathering and  
13 evaluating evidence, the auditor should not be satisfied with less-than-persuasive  
14 evidence because of a belief that management is honest.

15 AU § 316.13 (internal citations omitted).

16 126. AU § 316 therefore required KPMG to be continually alert for indications of  
17 misstatements of SVB's financial statements, whether due to error or fraud. The PCAOB standards  
18 require the auditor to approach the audit "with a mindset that recognizes the possibility that a material  
19 misstatement due to fraud could be present." AU § 316.13. As detailed above, due to the presence  
20 of multiple red flags, KPMG knew or should have known that there was a strong possibility of  
21 material misstatements in connection with SVB's financial statements for the 2020 fiscal year.

22 127. KPMG should have been aware that there was a heightened risk associated with the  
23 market risks, including the interest rate risk, uninsured depositor risk and liquidity risk, that SVB  
24 faced. That heightened risk obligated KPMG to perform more stringent and rigorous audit  
25 procedures compared to those it otherwise performed. For example, paragraphs 6 and 9 of AS No.  
26 13, The Auditor's Responses to the Risk of Material Misstatements, state the following:

27 The auditor also should determine whether it is necessary to make pervasive changes  
28 to the nature, timing, or extent of audit procedures to adequately address the assessed  
risks of material misstatement. Examples of such pervasive changes include modifying  
the audit strategy to: (a) increase the substantive testing of the valuation of numerous  
significant accounts at year end because of significantly deteriorating market  
conditions, and (b) obtain more persuasive audit evidence from substantive procedures  
due to the identification of pervasive weaknesses in the company's control  
environment.

\* \* \*

In designing the audit procedures to be performed, the auditor should . . . obtain more  
persuasive audit evidence the higher the auditor's assessment of risk.

1 128. AS No. 13.14 provides specific examples of how KPMG should have modified its  
2 audit procedures to address its assessed risks. In that regard, KPMG should have:

- 3 (a) Chang[ed] the nature of audit procedures to obtain evidence that is more reliable  
4 or to obtain additional corroborative information;  
5 (b) Chang[ed] the timing of audit procedures to be closer to the end of the period or to  
6 the points during the period in which fraudulent transactions are more likely to occur;  
7 and  
8 (c) Chang[ed] the extent of the procedures applied to obtain more evidence, *e.g.*, by  
9 increasing sample sizes or applying computer-assisted audit techniques to all of the  
10 items in an account.

11 129. In failing to modify its audit procedures, KPMG failed to comply with AS No. 13.  
12 Had KPMG appropriately modified its audit procedures to be responsive to the risk of material  
13 misstatement of the Company's financial statements and carried out those procedures with the  
14 appropriate degree of professional skepticism, it would have discovered that the Company's financial  
15 statements failed to account for material market risks, including interest rate risk, uninsured depositor  
16 risk and liquidity risk.

17 130. KPMG failed to obtain sufficient appropriate evidentiary matter regarding the market  
18 risks that SVB faced, including the interest rate risk, uninsured depositor risk and liquidity risk.  
19 KPMG also did not comply with PCAOB auditing standards. For example, KPMG violated GAAS  
20 Standard of Fieldwork Nos. 2 and 3, which require an independent auditor to obtain, through  
21 inspection, observation, inquiries and confirmations, competent, sufficient appropriate evidentiary  
22 matter to afford a reasonable basis for: (1) the opinion regarding the financial statements and (2) the  
23 opinion regarding internal control over financial reporting. KPMG likewise violated AS No. 15:  
24 Audit Evidence, which provides that an auditor has a reasonable basis for issuing an audit opinion  
25 when the auditor has planned and performed audit procedures in a manner that enables the auditor  
26 to obtain "sufficient appropriate audit evidence." AS No. 5 defines sufficiency as "the measure of  
27 the quantity of audit evidence" and appropriateness as "the measure of the quality of audit evidence."  
28 AS No. 15 also states that "as the risk increases, the amount of evidence that the auditor should  
obtain also increases. . . . [O]rdinarily more evidence is needed to respond to significant risks."  
Despite ample indicators of increased market risks, including interest rate risk, uninsured depositor  
risk and liquidity risk, KPMG failed to obtain more evidence than it typically would in the absence

1 of increased risk. In addition, AS No. 14, Evaluating Audit Results, provides that when evaluating  
2 whether the financial statements as a whole are free of material misstatement, the auditor should  
3 evaluate the qualitative aspects of the company's accounting practices, including potential bias in  
4 management's judgments about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.

5 131. KPMG also violated GAAS Standards of Reporting Nos. 1 and 4<sup>17</sup> by falsely  
6 representing that SVB's financial statements were presented in conformity with GAAP when they  
7 were not and by improperly providing unqualified opinions on SVB's financial statements for the  
8 year ended December 31, 2020, even though its audits were not conducted in accordance with  
9 PCAOB auditing standards and the financial statements were not prepared in accordance with  
10 GAAP. As a result of KPMG's violations of GAAS set forth above, it also violated Standard of  
11 Reporting Nos. 1 and 4 because KPMG had an insufficient basis to express an unqualified opinion  
12 on its 2020 audit of SVB.

13 132. Had KPMG performed its audit in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB, it  
14 would have recognized that SVB's FY2020 financial statements were not presented in conformity  
15 with GAAP and could not be relied upon. In other words, KPMG failed to obtain sufficient  
16 appropriate audit evidence as required by applicable auditing standards.

17 133. Under AS No. 5, KPMG was required to complete a careful examination regarding  
18 SVB's effective controls over financial reporting. PCAOB's rulemaking in connection with AS No.  
19 5 makes clear that KPMG could not simply rely on the assessment of internal controls reached and  
20 communicated to it by SVB's management or third parties but was instead required to conduct its  
21 own independent assessment of internal controls before it could issue a "clean" opinion. According  
22 to AS No. 5: "The auditor is required to provide an independent opinion on the effectiveness of the  
23 company's internal control over financial reporting. . . . The auditor cannot obtain sufficient evidence  
24 to support an opinion on the effectiveness of internal controls based solely on observation of or  
25 interaction with the company's controls. Rather, the auditor needs to perform procedures such as  
26

---

27 <sup>17</sup> Standard of Reporting No. 4 requires an auditor to express an opinion on the financial statements  
28 of a company taken as a whole, or to state that an opinion cannot be expressed. AU § 150.02.

1 inquiry, observation, and inspection of documents, or walkthroughs, which consist of a combination  
2 of these procedures, in order to fully understand and identify the likely sources of potential  
3 misstatements[.]” After performing an independent analysis, an independent auditor is not permitted  
4 to issue a clean opinion if any “material weaknesses” exist.

5 134. KPMG’s public statements that its audits were conducted in accordance with GAAS  
6 were materially false and misleading. Further, KPMG’s certifications and representations were false  
7 and misleading. The above-described misrepresentations and omissions, SVB’s failure to adequately  
8 manage interest rate risk, and its attendant collapse demonstrate significant deficiencies in SVB’s  
9 internal controls. In his prepared Senate testimony, Michael S. Barr, the Vice Chair for Supervision  
10 of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, attributed SVB’s failure to “inadequate  
11 risk management and internal controls that struggled to keep pace with the growth of the bank.”  
12 These risk management and internal control failures prompted six “supervisory findings” in late  
13 2021 which included the MRAs and MRIAs described at paragraphs 93-96, above.

14 135. With the foregoing misrepresentations and omissions in the Offering Materials,  
15 Defendants were able to complete the Merger. But as the truth of Defendants’ misrepresentations  
16 and omissions became clear, the price of SVB shares plunged, and the stock ultimately lost all value.

17 **DEFENDANTS’ MISSTATEMENTS AND OMISSIONS WERE MATERIAL**

18 136. In April 2022, SVB terminated its Chief Risk Officer Laura Izurieta, paying her  
19 severance of over \$7.1 million. SVB did not fill the position of Chief Risk Officer until Kim Olson  
20 “succeeded to the role of Chief Risk Officer on December 27, 2022.”

21 137. SVB’s deficient risk management protocols and internal controls led to its March  
22 2023 failure.

23 138. Throughout 2022, and continuing in the first three months of 2023, as interest rates  
24 rose, depositors withdrew substantial funds from SVB, exhausting the cash that the Company kept  
25 on hand to handle day-to-day deposits and withdrawals. Deposits fell from \$198 billion at the end of  
26 March 2022 to \$173 billion at the end of 2022 and to \$165 billion at the end of February 2023.

27 139. Much of the rest of the Company’s funds were tied up in long-term HTM securities.  
28 Many of those investments were purchased when the Company’s deposits skyrocketed in 2020 and



1 2021 and thus would not mature—and return the principal invested in them—until several years in  
2 the future.

3 140. To raise cash, SVB decided to sell its entire portfolio of AFS securities.

4 141. According to SVB's 2022 disclosure on Form 10-K, as of December 31, 2022, SVB  
5 held roughly \$26 billion in AFS securities. By March 8, 2023, the Company had sold substantially  
6 all of these securities.

7 142. Due to the rise in interest rates, however, SVB sold these securities at a \$1.8 billion  
8 loss.

9 143. According to Axios, early in the week of February 27, 2023, SVB was informed that  
10 the credit rating agency Moody's was considering a double downgrade of SVB's debt. SVB asked  
11 Moody's to postpone the downgrade, and Moody's agreed.

12 144. By the middle of the week, SVB was speaking with Goldman Sachs and private equity  
13 firms about raising capital. The next week, in early March, SVB decided to sell \$2.25 billion in  
14 shares to raise revenue, including \$500 million to private equity firm General Atlantic.

15 145. On March 8, 2023, Moody's downgraded SVB's debt. On the same day, SVB  
16 announced its \$1.8 billion loss and its plan to sell \$2.25 billion in shares to raise revenue (though the  
17 Company had not found investors to purchase all the shares it intended to sell).

18 146. SVB stated in a March 8 letter to investors:

19 The sale of substantially all of our AFS securities will enable us to increase  
20 our asset sensitivity, particularly lock in funding costs, better insulate net  
21 interest income (NII) and net interest margin (NIM) from the impact of  
22 higher interest rates, and enhance profitability.

...

23 While *we will realize a one-time, post tax earnings loss of approximately*  
24 *\$1.8 billion* in connection with the sale, we expect the reinvestment of the  
25 proceeds to be immediately accretive to net interest income (NII) and net  
26 interest margin (NIM), resulting in a short payback period of  
27 approximately three years.

28 (emphasis added).

147. The market immediately reacted, with the price of SVB's shares dropping more than  
60% the next day.



1 148. On March 9, 2023, Peter Thiel's Founders Fund, which invests in and advises many  
2 startups and is closely watched by other market participants, began advising startups to withdraw  
3 their money from SVB.

4 149. Depositors, including from SVB's startup-heavy depositor base, began to rapidly  
5 withdraw their deposits, a sequence of events partially driven by the fact that the bulk of SVB's  
6 startup-heavy deposit base was not FDIC insured. By the end of 2022, over 95% of the value of the  
7 deposits at SVB was not backed by FDIC insurance.

8 150. Because the great majority of deposits at SVB were not FDIC insured, when news of  
9 trouble at SVB began to spread, depositors feared that they might lose their deposited funds. These  
10 fears sparked a bank run. On March 9, 2023, depositors attempted to withdraw \$42 billion from their  
11 accounts at Silicon Valley Bank.

12 151. On March 10, the California Department of Financial Protection and Innovation took  
13 possession of Silicon Valley Bank, ordered that it be liquidated, and named the FDIC as the receiver.  
14 On March 13, the FDIC transferred all deposits to a new FDIC-operated bank, Silicon Valley Bridge  
15 Bank, N.A.

16 152. On March 17, SVB announced it had filed for bankruptcy. Its stock has since lost  
17 substantially all of its value.

18 153. Thus, while depositors are being made whole, SVB stockholders have been wiped  
19 out. They have received nothing, and their shares are now virtually worthless.

20 **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

21 154. Plaintiff brings this action as a class action on behalf of all persons who acquired SVB  
22 common stock in her Merger exchange pursuant to the Offering Materials (the "Class"). Excluded  
23 from the Class are Defendants and their families, the officers and directors and affiliates of  
24 Defendants, at all relevant times, members of their immediate families and their legal  
25 representatives, heirs, successors or assigns and any entity in which defendants have or had a  
26 controlling interest.

27 155. The members of the Class are so numerous that joinder of all members is  
28 impracticable. While the exact number of Class members is unknown to Plaintiff at this time and

1 can only be ascertained through appropriate discovery, Plaintiff believes that there are hundreds of  
2 members in the proposed Class. Members of the Class may be identified from records maintained  
3 by SVB or its transfer agent and may be notified of the pendency of this action by mail, using the  
4 form of notice similar to that customarily used in securities class actions.

5 156. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the members of the Class, as all members  
6 of the Class are similarly affected by Defendants' wrongful conduct in violation of law that is  
7 complained of herein.

8 157. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the members of the Class  
9 and has retained counsel competent and experienced in class and securities litigation.

10 158. Common questions of law and fact exist as to all members of the Class and  
11 predominate over any questions solely affecting individual members of the Class. Among the  
12 questions of law and fact common to the Class are:

13 (a) whether Defendants violated the Securities Act;

14 (b) whether the Offering Materials were negligently prepared and contained  
15 inaccurate statements of material fact and omitted material information required to be stated therein;  
16 and

17 (c) to what extent the members of the Class have sustained damages and the  
18 proper measure of damages.

19 159. A class action is superior to all other available methods for the fair and efficient  
20 adjudication of this controversy since joinder of all members is impracticable. Furthermore, as the  
21 damages suffered by individual Class members may be relatively small, the expense and burden of  
22 individual litigation make it impossible for members of the Class to individually redress the wrongs  
23 done to them. There will be no difficulty in the management of this action as a class action.

24 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

25 **For Violation of § 11 of the Securities Act**  
26 **Against All Defendants**

27 160. Plaintiff incorporates all the foregoing by reference.  
28

1           161. This Cause of Action is brought pursuant to § 11 of the Securities Act, 15 U.S.C.  
2           § 77k, on behalf of the Class, against all Defendants.

3           162. This Count alleges and sounds in strict liability. This Count expressly excludes and  
4           disclaims any allegation that could be construed as alleging fraud or scienter, as this Count is solely  
5           based on claims of strict liability and/or negligence under the Securities Act.

6           163. The Offering Materials contained untrue statements of material facts, omitted to state  
7           other facts necessary to make the statements made not misleading, and omitted to state material facts  
8           required to be stated therein.

9           164. Defendants are strictly liable to Plaintiff and the Class for the misstatements and  
10          omissions.

11          165. The Individual Defendants each signed or were named in the Offering Materials. As  
12          such, each is strictly liable for the material misrepresentations in the Offering Materials and the  
13          failure of the Offering Materials to be complete and accurate. Defendants DeChellis and Cooper also  
14          signed and solicited the Offering Materials within the scope of their employment by or agency on  
15          behalf of Boston Private. Each Individual Defendant had a duty to make a reasonable and diligent  
16          investigation of the truthfulness and accuracy of the statements contained in the Offering Materials  
17          and ensure that the representations in the Offering Materials were true and accurate, that there were  
18          no omissions of material facts that would render the Offering Materials misleading, and that the  
19          Offering Materials contained all facts required to be stated therein. In the exercise of reasonable care,  
20          the Individual Defendants should have known of the material misrepresentations and omissions  
21          contained in the Offering Materials and should have known of the omissions of material facts  
22          necessary to make the statements made therein not misleading or otherwise required to be stated  
23          therein. Accordingly, the Individual Defendants are liable to Plaintiff and the Class under Section  
24          11 for the material misrepresentations and omissions in the Offering Materials, and the failure of the  
25          Offering Materials to be complete and accurate.

26          166. Defendant Morgan Stanley signed and was identified in the Offering Materials,  
27          solicited Plaintiff and other former Boston Private investors to participate in the Merger and purchase  
28          the securities issued in the stock-for-stock exchange pursuant thereto, contributed to the Merger and

1 Offering Materials, and directly solicited ostensibly favorable information to Boston Private  
2 investors, including by providing an expert opinion in the Offering Materials that the Merger  
3 consideration was fair to Boston Private shareholders. Morgan Stanley also represented that they had  
4 conducted adequate due diligence and had consulted with management on the companies' operations  
5 and financial condition. As independent financial professionals assisting Boston Private with the  
6 Merger negotiations and with access to SVB's non-public information, Morgan Stanley put their  
7 imprimatur on the false and misleading statements contained in the Offering Materials, including but  
8 not limited to those regarding the fairness of the Merger consideration and the prospects for SVB.

9 167. None of the Defendants named herein made a reasonable investigation or possessed  
10 reasonable grounds for the belief that the statements contained in the Offering Materials were true  
11 and without omissions of any material facts and were not misleading.

12 168. By reason of the conduct herein alleged, each Defendant violated, or controlled an  
13 employee or other person who violated, § 11 of the Securities Act.

14 169. Plaintiff acquired SVB shares pursuant to the Offering Materials.

15 170. Plaintiff and the Class have sustained damage. The value of SVB common stock has  
16 declined substantially subsequent to and due to defendants' violations.

17 171. At the time of their acquisition of SVB shares, Plaintiff and the other members of the  
18 Class were without knowledge of the facts concerning the wrongful conduct alleged herein and could  
19 not have reasonably discovered those facts prior to the disclosures herein. Less than one year has  
20 elapsed from the time that Plaintiff discovered or reasonably could have discovered the facts upon  
21 which this Complaint is based to the time that Plaintiff commenced this action. Less than three years  
22 has elapsed between the time that the securities upon which this Cause of Action is brought were  
23 offered to the public and the time Plaintiff commenced this action.

24 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

25 **For Violation of § 12(a)(2) of the Securities Act**  
26 **Against All Defendants**

27 172. Plaintiff incorporates all the foregoing by reference.  
28

1 173. This Count is brought pursuant to § 12(a)(2) of the Securities Act, 15 U.S.C. §  
2 77l(a)(2), on behalf of the Class against the Defendants.

3 174. This Count alleges and sounds in strict liability. This Count expressly excludes and  
4 disclaims any allegation that could be construed as alleging fraud or scienter, as this Count is solely  
5 based on claims of strict liability and/or negligence under the Securities Act.

6 175. The prospectus contained untrue statements of material fact, and concealed and failed  
7 to disclose material facts, as detailed above. Defendants owed Plaintiff and the other members of the  
8 Class who purchased SVB shares pursuant to the prospectus the duty to make a reasonable and  
9 diligent investigation of the statements contained in the Prospectuses to ensure that such statements  
10 were true and that there was no failure to state a material fact required to be stated in order to make  
11 the statements contained therein not misleading. Defendants, in the exercise of reasonable care,  
12 should have known of the misstatements and omissions contained in the prospectus as set forth  
13 above.

14 176. Plaintiff did not know, nor in the exercise of reasonable diligence could have known,  
15 of the untruths and omissions contained in the prospectus at the time Plaintiff acquired SVB shares.

16 177. By reason of the conduct alleged herein, the Defendants violated § 12(a)(2) of the  
17 Securities Act. As a direct and proximate result of such violations, Plaintiff and the other members  
18 of the Class, who purchased SVB shares pursuant to the prospectus, sustained substantial damages  
19 in connection with their purchases of the stock. Accordingly, Plaintiff and the other members of the  
20 Class who hold the common stock issued pursuant to the Prospectus have the right to rescind and  
21 recover the consideration paid for their shares, and hereby tender their common stock to Defendants  
22 sued herein. Class members who have sold their common stock seek damages to the extent permitted  
23 by law.

24 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

25 **For Violation of § 15 of the Securities Act**  
26 **Against the Individual Defendants**

27 178. Plaintiff incorporates all the foregoing by reference.  
28



1 /s/ Adam E. Polk

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**Exhibit C**

**2023 Complaint**



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23CV414120  
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9 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**  
10 **COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA**  
11

23CV414120

12 STEPHEN ROSSI, INDIVIDUALLY AND ) Case No.  
13 ON BEHALF OF ALL OTHERS )  
14 SIMILARLY SITUATED, ) CLASS ACTION  
15 )  
16 Plaintiffs, ) COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE  
17 vs. ) SECURITIES ACT OF 1933  
18 )  
19 ) DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL  
20 GREG W. BECKER, DANIEL J. BECK, )  
21 ROGER F. DUNBAR, KAREN HON, ERIC )  
22 A. BENHAMOU, JOHN S. CLENDENING, )  
23 RICHARD D. DANIELS, ALISON DAVIS, )  
24 JOEL P. FRIEDMAN, JEFFERY N. )  
25 MAGGIONCALDA, BEVERLY KAY )  
26 MATTHEWS, MARY J. MILLER, KATE D. )  
27 MITCHELL, JOHN F. ROBINSON, GAREN )  
28 K. STAGLIN, KPMG LLP, BENHAMOU )  
GLOBAL VENTURES, LLC, FIFTH ERA, )  
LLC, AND SCALE VENTURE PARTNERS )  
Defendants. )

1 Plaintiff Stephen Rossi, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, alleges the  
2 following based upon personal knowledge as to Plaintiff and his own acts, and otherwise based upon  
3 the investigation conducted by and through Plaintiff's attorneys, which included, among other  
4 things, a review of U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") filings by SVB Financial  
5 Group (the "Company" or "SVB") and Boston Private Bank & Trust Company ("Boston Private"),  
6 as well as media, testimony, and publicly available information concerning the Company and its  
7 public statements. Plaintiff believes that substantial additional evidentiary support will exist for the  
8 allegations set forth herein.

9 **SUMMARY OF THE ACTION**

10 1. This is a securities class action on behalf of all persons who acquired SVB common  
11 stock pursuant to the S-4 registration statement and 424B3 prospectus (collectively, with materials  
12 incorporated by reference therein, the "Offering Materials") issued in connection with the July 2021  
13 stock-for-stock exchange through which SVB acquired and merged with Boston Private (the  
14 "Merger"). Plaintiff asserts strict liability claims for relief under §§ 11, 12(a)(2), and 15 of the  
15 Securities Act of 1933 ("1933 Act" or "Securities Act") against certain SVB directors and officers,  
16 against KPMG, LLP ("KPMG"), SVB's independent auditor, and the Venture Capital Defendants  
17 (defined below).

18 2. At the time of the Merger, SVB operated as a financial services company, a bank  
19 holding company, and a financial holding company, offering banking and financial products and  
20 services to domestic and international clients. It offered its banking services through its primary  
21 subsidiary, Silicon Valley Bank, which operated as a California state-chartered bank.

22 3. Pursuant to the Merger, each share of Boston Private stock was converted into the  
23 right to receive \$2.10 in cash and 0.0228 shares of SVB common stock. Through this cash-and-stock  
24 exchange, in connection with the Merger, Defendants solicited and sold to former Boston Private  
25 shareholders approximately 1.9 million shares of SVB common stock. All these new shares of SVB  
26 common stock were registered, issued, sold, and solicited pursuant to the Offering Materials, all  
27 motivated by their own and the Company's financial interests.

1           4.       The Offering Materials contained false and misleading statements of material fact,  
2 and omitted material facts that were both required by governing regulations, and necessary to make  
3 the statements not misleading. Leading up to the Merger, in an environment of historically low  
4 interest rates, SVB shifted a substantial portion of its investment portfolio to longer-term, fixed-rate  
5 securities. In doing so, because a rise in interest rates reduces the market value of fixed-rate  
6 securities, SVB exposed itself to far greater interest rate risk than disclosed in the Offering Materials.

7           5.       As shown in greater detail below, the Offering Materials were rife with materially false  
8 and misleading statements and omissions such as the significant, undisclosed market risks, including  
9 severe interest rate risk, uninsured depositor risks and liquidity risks, that SVB faced. Among other  
10 matters, the Offering Materials failed to disclose that:

11                   (a)       Higher interest rates were already jeopardizing the bank's future earnings, and  
12 worse, instead of mitigating such risks, SVB had exacerbated those risks by, *inter alia*,  
13 overconcentrating in long-duration investments to deliver short-term profits;

14                   (b)       As more deposits flowed in, SVB's executives had disregarded internal  
15 assessments, including recommendations to purchase shorter-term bonds to hedge its balance sheet,  
16 which would have offset the material risk of losses from rising interest rates, and instead continued  
17 investing in long-term bonds to drive short-term profits;

18                   (c)       SVB had ignored internal risk management alarms, had failed to reasonably  
19 address and comply with key risk metrics, and had altered assumptions underlying internal models  
20 that showed higher interest rates could devastate SVB's future earnings, using unreasonable and  
21 improper tweaks to those models to mask the undisclosed risks and facilitate SVB's short-term  
22 profit-driven strategy;

23                   (d)       SVB lacked effective internal controls, had deficient risk management  
24 systems, its holding Company had been rated as deficient under the CAMELS (acronym for Capital  
25 adequacy, Assets, Management capability, Earnings, Liquidity, Sensitivity) rating system, regulators  
26 had warned SVB that its risk management systems were inadequate and below the Federal Reserve's  
27 expectations, and SVB was already facing many serious operational and technological problems,  
28 impairing the Company's ability to track risks, including interest rate risks, among other matters;

1 (e) SVB lacked a diversified customer base, was over-reliant on a small group of  
2 large, uninsured depositors tied into the same, insular venture capital networks, and thus an  
3 overwhelmingly inordinate percentage of SVB deposits across that non-diversified customer base  
4 was particularly susceptible to the risk of a run on the bank; and

5 (f) SVB's liquidity was less than represented by Defendants and, in truth,  
6 inadequate in view of its customers' business and their collective deposits.

7 6. Moreover, with respect to interest rate risk, SVB failed to disclose that a foreseeable  
8 rise in interest rates presented a critical threat to its future business. The Offering Materials' risk factor  
9 disclosures were materially false and misleading, framing potential interest rate increases as a net  
10 **positive** for SVB. According to the Offering Materials, such increases would increase its interest rate  
11 spread, allowing SVB to charge more for its loans and buy higher yielding securities at a rate that  
12 would outpace the increased interest it would be obligated to pay on its customer deposits. But that  
13 same risk factor disclosure omitted that higher rates would reduce the market value of SVB's  
14 marketable securities, resulting in material unrealized losses from their declining market value or  
15 realized losses if they had to be liquidated.

16 7. Defendants were required to disclose these material facts in the Offering Materials  
17 for at least four independent reasons. First, SEC Regulation S-K, Item 105, requires disclosure of  
18 "material" risk factors. As detailed therein, the "Risk Factor" section of the Offering Materials must  
19 "provide under the caption 'Risk Factors' a discussion of the material factors that make an  
20 investment in the registrant or offering speculative or risky." 17 C.F.R. § 229.105.<sup>1</sup> Item 105 requires  
21 disclosure of the risks to which reasonable investors would attach importance in making investment  
22 or voting decisions. Contrary to Item 105's requirements, the Offering Materials failed to disclose  
23 that foregoing risks. While the Offering Materials' discussion of risk factors listed market and  
24 liquidity risks in vague and generic terms, it did not mention the actual material risks posed by the  
25 foregoing, much less adequately describe those risks as required by Item 105.

26  
27  
28 <sup>1</sup> Before April 2, 2019, current Item 105 was Item 503(c).

1           8.       Second, SEC Regulation S-K, Item 305, sets forth quantitative and qualitative  
2 disclosure requirements regarding market risk, including interest rate risk. The Offering Materials  
3 failed to provide the required disclosures under Item 305. The quantitative disclosures violated Item  
4 305 because they failed to reflect “reasonably possible near term changes.” Instead, SVB used only  
5 a maximum 200 bps rate increase. It was reasonably possible at the time of the Offering Materials  
6 that the Federal Reserve would (as it ultimately did) raise interest rates to a greater degree. The  
7 Offering Materials qualitative disclosures also violated Item 305, as they misrepresented and failed  
8 to disclose the critical change in the Company’s market risk exposure, including interest rate risk, as  
9 well as how it would manage such risk. Further, the Offering Materials failed to disclose that  
10 Defendants ignored internal alarms, failed to comply with key risk metrics, and engineered  
11 assumptions to internal models that showed that higher interest rates could devastate the SVB’s  
12 future earnings, making unreasonable and improper tweaks to the model to validate and advance  
13 SVB’s profit-driven strategy.

14           9.       Third, SEC Regulation S-K, Item 303, requires that management’s discussion and  
15 analysis (MD&A) “[i]dentify any known trends or any known demands, commitments, events or  
16 uncertainties that will result in or that are reasonably likely to result in the registrant’s liquidity  
17 increasing or decreasing in any material way” and “[d]escribe any known trends or uncertainties that  
18 have had or that are reasonably likely to have a material favorable or unfavorable impact on net sales  
19 or revenues or income from continuing operations.” 17 C.F.R. § 229.303. Contrary to Item 303’s  
20 requirements, the Offering Materials failed to disclose the material market risks, including the  
21 interest rate risk, uninsured depositor risk and liquidity risk that SVB faced, and which resulted in,  
22 and were reasonably likely to result in, SVB’s liquidity materially decreasing and having a materially  
23 unfavorable impact on SVB’s revenues and income.

24           10.       Fourth, Defendants failure to disclose the foregoing risks rendered false and  
25 misleading the Offering Materials’ numerous references to known risks that, “if” they occurred,  
26 “may” or “could” affect the Company. These “risks” were, in truth, already existing or near  
27 certainties at the time of the Merger.

1 11. On March 9, 2023, the Company announced in a mid-quarter update that it had sold  
2 “substantially all of our Available for Sale (“AFS”) securities portfolio” resulting in an estimated  
3 realized post-tax loss of \$1.8 billion. SVB’s stock plummeted more than 60% the next day.

4 12. Since March 8, 2023, the stock has lost substantially all of its value. SVB terminated  
5 its previously announced equity offerings; Silicon Valley Bank was shut down by the California  
6 Department of Financial Protection and Innovation; and on March 17, 2023, SVB announced it had  
7 filed a voluntary petition under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code in the United States Bankruptcy  
8 Court for the Southern District of New York.

9 13. The Federal Reserve System has since undertaken a review of the SVB failure.  
10 According to prepared testimony by Michael Barr, the Fed’s Vice Chair for Supervision, before the  
11 Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, “[t]he picture that has emerged thus far  
12 shows SVB had inadequate risk management and internal controls . . . .” In fact, as reported in the  
13 *New York Times*, at around the time of the Merger the Fed alerted SVB that it “was doing a bad job  
14 of ensuring that it would have enough easy-to-tap cash on hand in the event of trouble.” And the  
15 *Washington Post* reported in April 2023 that an internal model at SVB “showed that higher interest  
16 rates could have a devastating impact on the bank’s future earnings” but that, “[i]nstead of heeding  
17 that warning—and over the concerns of some staffers—SVB executives simply changed the model’s  
18 assumptions . . . .”

19 14. Plaintiff Stephen Rossi owned Boston Private stock before the Merger and acquired  
20 SVB stock pursuant to the Offering Materials in the Merger. Plaintiff asserts causes of action under  
21 §§ 11, 12, and 15 of the Securities Act against Defendants—the directors and officers who signed  
22 the Offering Materials, KPMG, SVB’s independent auditor, and the Venture Capital Defendants  
23 (defined below).

#### 24 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

25 15. This Court has original subject matter jurisdiction under the California Constitution,  
26 Article VI, Section 10. Removal is barred by Section 22 of the 1933 Act.

27 16. This Court has personal jurisdiction and venue is proper under California Code of  
28 Civil Procedure § 410.10. Certain Defendants and their agents reside in California. Further, certain

1 Defendants drafted and signed the Offering Materials, and controlled SVB's operations, within  
2 California and this county. KPMG signed the "Consent of Independent Registered Public  
3 Accounting Firm" and the "Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm" in  
4 California. Certain Defendants and their agents also affirmatively solicited the subject securities and  
5 disseminated the false and misleading statements and omissions to investors in California and this  
6 county. Individually and collectively, these contacts with California are substantially connected to  
7 the claims set forth in this complaint.

8 17. This Court is a proper venue under California Code of Civil Procedure § 395.

9 **PARTIES**

10 18. Plaintiff Stephen Rossi is a resident of Castro Valley, California. Plaintiff acquired  
11 SVB common stock directly in the Merger, in exchange for Boston Private shares, pursuant to the  
12 Offering Materials and was damaged thereby.

13 19. Defendant Greg W. Becker was, at all relevant times, President, Chief Executive  
14 Officer, and a Director of SVB. Defendant Becker reviewed, contributed to, and signed the Offering  
15 Materials.

16 20. Defendant Daniel J. Beck was, at all relevant times, the Chief Financial Officer of  
17 SVB. Defendant Beck reviewed, contributed to, and signed the Offering Materials.

18 21. Defendant Roger F. Dunbar was, at all relevant times Chairman of the Board of  
19 Directors of SVB. Defendant Dunbar was the chairperson of the Risk Committee at the time of the  
20 Merger. Defendant Dunbar reviewed, contributed to, and signed the Offering Materials.

21 22. Defendant Karen Hon was, at all relevant times, the Chief Accounting Officer of  
22 SVB. Defendant Hon reviewed, contributed to, and signed the Offering Materials.

23 23. Defendant Eric A. Benhamou was, at all relevant times, a Director of SVB. Defendant  
24 Benhamou was a member of the Risk Committee, the Finance Committee and chairperson of the  
25 Governance Committee at the time of the Merger. Defendant Benhamou reviewed, contributed to,  
26 and signed the Offering Materials, including in his capacity as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer  
27 of Defendant Benhamou Global Ventures, LLC, an investment firm focused on innovative high-tech  
28 companies around the world, which he founded in 2003.



1           24. Defendant John S. Clendening was, at all relevant times, a Director of SVB.  
2 Defendant Clendening reviewed, contributed to, and signed the Offering Materials.

3           25. Defendant Richard D. Daniels was, at all relevant times, a Director of SVB.  
4 Defendant Daniels reviewed, contributed to, and signed the Offering Materials.

5           26. Defendant Allison Davis was, at all relevant times, a Director of SVB. Defendant  
6 Davis reviewed, contributed to, and signed the Offering Materials, including in her capacity as Co-  
7 Founder and Managing Partner of Defendant Fifth Era, LLC, a venture capital firm specializing in  
8 seed funding and startup investments.

9           27. Defendant Joel L. Friedman was, at all relevant times, a Director of SVB. Defendant  
10 Friedman was a member of the Risk Committee at the time of the Merger. Defendant Friedman  
11 reviewed, contributed to, and signed the Offering Materials.

12           28. Defendant Jeffery N. Maggioncalda was, at all relevant times, a Director of SVB.  
13 Defendant Maggioncalda reviewed, contributed to, and signed the Offering Materials.

14           29. Defendant Beverly Kay Matthews was, at all relevant times, a Director of SVB.  
15 Defendant Matthews reviewed, contributed to, and signed the Offering Materials.

16           30. Defendant Mary J. Miller was, at all relevant times, a Director of SVB. Defendant  
17 Miller was a member of the Risk Committee at the time of the Merger. Defendant Miller reviewed,  
18 contributed to, and signed the Offering Materials.

19           31. Defendant Kate D. Mitchell was, at all relevant times, a Director of SVB. Defendant  
20 Mitchell was a member of the Risk Committee at the time of the Merger. Defendant Mitchell  
21 reviewed, contributed to, and signed the Offering Materials, including in her capacity as a Partner  
22 and Co-Founder of Defendant Scale Venture Partners (defined below), a venture capital firm that  
23 invests in enterprise software companies, and has been instrumental in building the firm's team and  
24 strategic direction.

25           32. Defendant John F. Robinson was, at all relevant times, a Director of SVB. Defendant  
26 Robinson was a member of the Risk Committee at the time of the Merger. Defendant Robinson  
27 reviewed, contributed to, and signed the Offering Materials.

28



1 33. Defendant Garen K. Staglin was, at all relevant times, a Director of SVB. Defendant  
2 Staglin was a member of the Risk Committee at the time of the Merger. Defendant Staglin reviewed,  
3 contributed to, and signed the Offering Materials.

4 34. The Defendants named in ¶¶ 19-33 are referred to herein as the “Individual  
5 Defendants.” Each of them signed and/or was identified as an incoming officer or director in the  
6 Offering Materials, solicited the securities issued pursuant thereto, planned and contributed to the  
7 Merger and Offering Materials, and attended promotional events to meet with and present favorable  
8 information to Boston Private investors.

9 35. Defendant KPMG LLP (“KPMG”) is a New York Registered Foreign Limited  
10 Liability Partnership headquartered in New York, New York. KPMG was the auditor for SVB from  
11 1994 to 2023, including for the calendar year ended December 31, 2020.

12 36. Defendant Benhamou Global Ventures, LLC (“Benhamou Global Ventures”), is a  
13 Delaware Limited Liability Company headquartered in Menlo Park, California. Benhamou Global  
14 Ventures, founded in 2003 by Defendant Eric A. Benhamou, is an investment firm focused on  
15 innovative high-tech companies around the world. Benhamou Global Ventures exercised control  
16 over Defendant Eric A. Benhamou, who, within the scope of his employment for Benhamou Global  
17 Ventures reviewed, contributed to, signed, or agreed to be named as a director of SVB in the Offering  
18 Materials.

19 37. Defendant Fifth Era, LLC (“Fifth Era”) is a California Limited Liability Company,  
20 headquartered in Tiburon, California. Fifth Era is a venture capital firm specializing in seed funding  
21 and startup investments, co-founded by Defendant Allison Davis, who is its Managing Partner. Fifth  
22 Era exercised control over Defendant Allison Davis, who, within the scope of her employment for  
23 Fifth Era reviewed, contributed to, signed, or agreed to be named as a director of SVB in the Offering  
24 Materials.

25 38. Defendant Scale Venture Partners (defined as including but not limited to the  
26 following related and operating entities: Scale Management, LLC, a California Limited Liability  
27 Company headquartered in Foster City, California; Scale Venture Management I, LLC, a California  
28 Limited Liability Company headquartered in Foster City, California; Scale Venture Management I-

1 A, LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company headquartered in Foster City, California; Scale  
2 Venture Management III, LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company headquartered in Foster City,  
3 California; Scale Venture Management IV, LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company  
4 headquartered in Foster City, California), headquartered in Foster City, California, is a venture  
5 capital firm that invests in enterprise software companies, co-founded by Defendant Kate D.  
6 Mitchell, who serves as a Partner and Co-Founder. Scale Venture Partners exercised control over  
7 Defendant Kate D. Mitchell, who, within the scope of her employment for Scale Venture Partners  
8 reviewed, contributed to, signed, or agreed to be named as a director of SVB in the Offering  
9 Materials.

10 39. The Defendants named in ¶¶ 36-38 are referred to herein as the “Venture Capital  
11 Defendants.” The Individual Defendants, KPMG and the Venture Capital Defendants are  
12 collectively referred to as “All Defendants.”

### 13 **FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

#### 14 **Relevant Banking Background**

15 40. A typical commercial bank accepts deposits that customers can withdraw at will. The  
16 bank may pay interest on some or all of those deposits. These deposits are liabilities because they  
17 are owed to the bank’s customers.

18 41. A typical commercial bank also holds some cash to manage day-to-day withdrawals  
19 and deposits. The bank seeks to earn interest on the balance of the deposited funds, typically by  
20 making loans or investing in assets. The bank makes a profit on the difference between the interest  
21 that its assets earn and the interest that it must pay on its liabilities. This difference is called the  
22 “interest rate spread.”

23 42. Low interest rates in the market generally correspond to a low interest rate spread.  
24 And because a bank makes its profit off the interest rate spread, low interest rates can result in low  
25 profits.

26 43. The securities that banks purchase generally fall into two categories: (1) “available-  
27 for-sale,” or “AFS,” and (2) “hold-to-maturity,” or “HTM.” AFS securities are those that might be  
28 sold to raise revenue, so their book value—their value on a balance sheet—is adjusted periodically

1 to reflect changes in their market value, such as due to interest rate fluctuations. HTM securities are  
2 intended to be held to maturity, so their book value is kept fixed throughout their life. Selling HTM  
3 securities prior to their date of maturity results in the portfolio being immediately “marked to market”  
4 (valued at current market value versus value at maturity), which can create a need to raise capital.

5 **SVB’s Origins and Development to 2021**

6 44. SVB was founded in Santa Clara County in 1983 and has been headquartered there  
7 ever since. Until its bankruptcy, SVB (through its primary subsidiary, Silicon Valley Bank)  
8 specialized in taking deposits from and lending to startup companies, particularly ones based in the  
9 Silicon Valley region of the San Francisco Bay Area.

10 45. Throughout the 2010s, interest rates were low by historical standards, resulting in  
11 lower-than-desired profits at SVB. The concerns about profitability became more acute by the late  
12 2010s, as SVB’s assets approached \$50 billion. The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer  
13 Protection Act of 2010 subjected all bank holding companies with \$50 billion or more in assets to  
14 enhanced regulations due to their presumed systemic importance.

15 46. In 2017, there was a change in leadership within SVB’s key finance functions, and in  
16 2018, the new financial leadership at SVB sought greater returns on the bank’s assets. To that end,  
17 SVB shifted a large portion of its investment portfolio from short-term bonds to long-term bonds.  
18 The latter pay higher interest rates but tie up funds and remain on the books for longer.

19 47. Between the fourth quarter of 2019 and during 2021, including when the COVID-19  
20 pandemic led to an increase in the use of the Internet for most activities and the federal government  
21 injected money into the economy to prevent a significant downturn, SVB experienced massive  
22 growth in deposits. In 2018, SVB’s deposits were just under \$50 billion. In 2020, its deposits had  
23 grown to \$102 billion. By 2021, its deposits were approaching \$190 billion.

24 48. More deposits came in than SVB could lend out. Loans to startups were a relatively  
25 small part of SVB’s business in the early 2020s, both because of the equity investments funding  
26 startups and because the typical startup has not built up a track record of good creditworthiness. SVB  
27 made home loans and performed other kinds of business lending, such as vineyard finance, but in  
28

1 accordance with the strategy it had adopted a few years earlier, much of the inflow of deposits to  
2 SVB in 2020 and 2021 went to purchasing long-term securities, such as U.S. Treasury bonds.

3 49. SVB concentrated its investments in HTM securities (as opposed to AFS securities)  
4 for its expanding securities portfolio.

5 50. As a consequence of these developments, SVB's balance sheet in 2021 had the  
6 following essential characteristics:

- 7 • First, SVB's liabilities consisted primarily of recent deposits, often from startups.  
8 These deposits brought significant risk. Venture capital firms invest in startups to earn  
9 returns, but as interest rates rise, safer alternatives to investing in startups become  
10 more viable by paying a higher return. When interest rates rise, therefore, fewer  
11 startups receive funding, startups have less cash to deposit in a bank, and some may  
12 need to withdraw funds.
- 13 • Second, a substantial proportion of SVB's assets were long-term U.S. Treasury bonds  
14 and other government-affiliated debt securities.

15 51. U.S. Treasury bonds are sometimes described as "safe" investments. But, while U.S.  
16 Treasury bonds are safe from *credit* risk (*i.e.*, the U.S. Treasury has never failed to repay creditors),  
17 all fixed-interest bonds are subject to significant interest rate risk. A U.S. Treasury bond provides  
18 payments at a fixed interest rate for a set number of years, for example ten, but when interest rates  
19 rise, a bond at the older, lower rate *loses* value because investors can buy bonds at a new, higher rate.

20 52. Long-term bonds pose additional risks. By definition, they tie up liquidity for a longer  
21 period. Hence, if there is an unexpected need for liquidity, bonds must be sold. If interest rates have  
22 risen, bonds must be sold at a loss.

23 53. In the 2010s, interest rates had been low for years. The Federal Funds Rate, a key  
24 benchmark, dropped close to zero during the financial crisis in 2007 and 2008, and had remained  
25 close to zero ever since, except for a few small increases between 2017 and 2020, which were quickly  
26 reversed.

27 54. By early 2021, market conditions had changed enough that SVB's exposure to rising  
28 interest rates was no longer a potential future risk: It presented a near-term crisis. Typically, the

1 Federal Reserve raises interest rates to fight inflation. Accordingly, by early 2021, with interest rates  
2 at near historic lows, interest rates were set to rise with expected inflation.<sup>2</sup> These increases were  
3 foreseeable. Before 2022, interest rates were historically low: from the end of 2008 to early 2022,  
4 rates were lower than they had ever been in any previous time period of comparable length.  
5 Historically, though, the Federal Reserve has lowered *and raised* interest rates to respond to  
6 macroeconomic conditions. Near-zero rates could not persist indefinitely.

7 **DEFENDANTS' FALSE AND MISLEADING OFFERING MATERIALS**

8 55. On January 4, 2021, SVB announced that it had entered into a definitive merger  
9 agreement pursuant to which it would acquire Boston Private Bank & Trust Company. Under the  
10 terms of the merger agreement, Boston Private shareholders would receive 0.0228 shares of SVB  
11 common stock and \$2.10 of cash for each Boston Private share they owned.

12 **The Offering Materials**

13 56. On February 11, 2021, SVB filed with the SEC on Form S-4 a draft registration  
14 statement which would register the SVB shares to be issued and exchanged in the Merger.

15 57. On March 16, 2021, SVB filed with the SEC a final amendment to the registration  
16 statement. The amended registration statement incorporated by reference, among other matters, the  
17 following SVB SEC filings:

- 18 • Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2020, filed with the  
19 SEC on March 1, 2021;
- 20 • Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A for the 2021 annual meeting of stockholders,  
21 filed with the SEC on March 4, 2021;
- 22 • Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 4, 2021, January 8, 2021,  
23 January 21, 2021 (only with respect to Item 8.01) and February 2, 2021; and  
24

25  
26  
27 <sup>2</sup> The Federal Reserve announced seven rate increases in 2022, beginning in March, amounting to a  
28 total of four percentage points. Another rate hike followed in early 2023.

- Description of SVB common stock, par value \$0.001 per share, contained in registration statement on Form 8-A filed with the SEC on April 23, 1987, including any amendment or report filed for the purposes of updating such description.

58. The SEC declared the amended registration statement effective on March 17, 2021.

59. On March 18, 2021, SVB filed a prospectus on Form 424B3 for the SVB shares issued and exchanged in the Merger.

60. On July 1, 2021, the Merger closed. Until then, Boston Private shareholders could sell their shares on the open market if they did not want to receive SVB stock in the Merger. On that date, Boston Private shareholders received 0.0228 shares of SVB common stock and \$2.10 of cash for each Boston Private share they owned. The final closing price of Boston Private stock was \$14.75.

**The Offering Materials' False and Misleading Statements and Omissions Regarding Interest Rate and Deposit Risk**

61. The Offering Materials contained untrue statements of material fact and omitted material facts that were both required by governing regulations and necessary to make the statements made not misleading.

62. The Offering Materials failed to disclose that SVB faced significant interest rate risk, including on both the asset and liability sides of its balance sheet from investing predominantly in long-term, fixed-rate, government-backed debt securities. On the asset side of SVB's balance sheet, higher interest rates risked decreasing the value of SVB's long-term debt securities. On the liability side of SVB's balance sheets, higher interest rates risked less capital allocated to technology companies, thereby decreasing the supply of cheap deposit funding.

63. The Offering Materials failed to disclose that SVB's deposits and long-term debt security assets were subject to interest rate risk, such that if interest rates substantially rose, SVB could be expected to need liquidity to repay depositors while simultaneously being unable to acquire liquidity except by selling its long-term debt security assets at large losses.

64. The Risk Factors section of SVB's 2020 10-K, incorporated by reference into the Offering Materials, failed to disclose the serious interest rate risk that SVB faced, stating as follows:

1 **Our interest rate spread has declined, and may continue to decline in the future.**  
2 **Any material reduction in our interest rate spread could have a material adverse**  
3 **effect on our business, results of operations or financial condition.<sup>3</sup>**

4 A significant portion of our net income comes from our interest rate spread, which is  
5 the difference between the interest rates paid by us on interest-bearing liabilities, such  
6 as deposits and internal borrowings, and the interest rates and fees we receive on our  
7 interest-earning assets, such as loans extended to our clients, securities held in our  
8 investment portfolio and excess cash held to manage short-term liquidity. Our interest  
9 rate spread can be affected by the mix of loans, investment securities, deposits and  
10 other liabilities on our balance sheet, as well as a variety of external factors beyond  
11 our control that affect interest rate levels, such as competition, inflation, recession,  
12 global economic disruptions, unemployment and the fiscal and monetary policies of  
13 various governmental bodies. For example, changes in key variable market interest  
14 rates, such as the Federal Funds, National Prime (“Prime”), LIBOR or Treasury rates,  
15 generally impact our interest rate spread. While changes in interest rates do not  
16 generally produce equivalent changes in the revenues earned from our interest-earning  
17 assets and the expenses associated with our interest-bearing liabilities, increases in  
18 market interest rates are nevertheless *likely to cause our interest rate spread to*  
19 *increase. Conversely, if interest rates decline, our interest rate spread will likely*  
20 *decline. In the first quarter of 2020, the Federal Reserve lowered the target Federal*  
21 *Funds rate to between zero and 0.25%, which contributed to the decline of our*  
22 *interest rate spread, and also led to a decrease in the rates and yields on U.S.*  
23 *Treasury securities. If interest rates do not rise, or if the Federal Reserve lowers the*  
24 *target Federal Funds rate to below 0%, these low rates could continue to constrain*  
25 *our interest rate spread and may adversely affect our business forecasts.* On the other  
26 hand, increases in interest rates may result in a change in the mix of non-interest and  
27 interest-bearing accounts, and the level of off-balance sheet market-based investment  
28 preferred by our clients, which may also impact our interest rate spread.

(emphasis added).

65. This paragraph incorporated into the Offering Materials was materially false and  
misleading because, among other matters, it portrays an increase in interest rates as “likely to cause  
[SVB’s] interest rate spread to increase,” which would increase the Company’s net income from the  
spread. In other words, SVB could charge more for its loans and buy higher yielding securities. In  
reality, an increase in interest rates would sharply reduce the value of SVB’s long-term debt security  
assets.

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<sup>3</sup> Bolding in original.



1           66. SVB’s omissions regarding its interest rate risk also rendered the Offering Materials  
2 false and misleading. Specifically, the Offering Materials failed to disclose the substantial risk that  
3 higher interest rates posed to SVB, including that higher interest rates would lower the market value  
4 of SVB’s long-term debt securities, resulting in material unrealized losses from their declining  
5 market value or realized losses if they had to be liquidated. Instead, the Offering Materials presented  
6 future rate increases as something that would benefit SVB.

7           67. In late 2020, as deposits increased at SVB, Company executives rejected an internal  
8 recommendation to purchase shorter-term bonds to reduce the risk of material losses from interest  
9 rate increases. As Bloomberg reported on March 13, 2023:

10           In late 2020, the firm’s asset-liability committee received an internal recommendation to buy  
11 shorter-term bonds as more deposits flowed in, according to documents viewed by  
12 Bloomberg. That shift would reduce the risk of sizable losses if interest rates quickly rose.  
13 But it would have a cost: an estimated \$18 million reduction in earnings, with a \$36 million  
14 hit going forward from there.

15           Executives balked. Instead, the company continued to plow cash into higher-yielding assets.  
16 That helped profit jump 52% to a record in 2021 and helped the firm’s valuation soar past  
17 \$40 billion. But as rates soared in 2022, the firm racked up more than \$16 billion of  
18 unrealized losses on its bond holdings.

19           Throughout last year, some employees pleaded to reposition the company’s balance sheet  
20 into shorter duration bonds. The asks were repeatedly rejected, according to a person  
21 familiar with the conversations. The firm did start to put on some hedges and sell assets late  
22 last year, but the moves proved too late.<sup>4</sup>

23           68. Nor did the Offering Materials disclose that, to inflate short-term profits, the  
24 Company ignored internal alarms, failed to comply with key risk metrics, and engineered  
25 assumptions to internal models that (correctly) showed that higher interest rates could devastate the  
26 SVB’s future earnings. As reported by the Washington Post in an article titled, “*Silicon Valley  
27 Bank's risk model flashed red. So its executives changed it*”:

28           Flush with cash from a booming tech industry, *Silicon Valley Bank executives  
embarked on a strategy in 2020 to juice profits that quickly triggered an internal  
alarm. In buying longer-term investments that paid more interest, SVB had fallen  
out of compliance with a key risk metric. An internal model showed that higher*

<sup>4</sup><https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-03-13/svb-failure-sparks-blame-game-over-trump-era-regulatory-rollback#xj4y7vzkg>



1 *interest rates could have a devastating impact on the bank’s future earnings,*  
2 *according to two former employees familiar with the modeling who spoke on the*  
3 *condition of anonymity to describe confidential deliberations.*

4 *Instead of heeding that warning — and over the concerns of some staffers — SVB*  
5 *executives simply changed the model’s assumptions, according to the former*  
6 *employees and securities filings.* The tweaks, which have not been previously  
7 reported, initially predicted that rising interest rates would have minimal impact.

8 The new assumptions validated SVB’s profit-driven strategy, but they were  
9 profoundly misplaced. Over the past year, interest rates have climbed nearly five  
10 percentage points, the fastest pace since the 1980s. Meanwhile, the tech industry has  
11 entered a post-pandemic swoon, causing SVB’s elite clientele to withdraw cash far  
12 faster than bank executives had expected.

13 On March 8, the bank was forced to raise additional cash by selling securities at a \$1.8  
14 billion loss. That touched off panic among SVB clients, who staged one of the biggest  
15 bank runs in U.S. history. Fanned by social media, depositors tried to withdraw \$42  
16 billion in a single day. The next morning, the bank collapsed and federal regulators  
17 took control.

18 *The episode shows that executives knew early on that higher interest rates could*  
19 *jeopardize the bank’s future earnings. Instead of shifting course to mitigate that*  
20 *risk, they doubled down on a strategy to deliver near-term profits, displaying an*  
21 *appetite for risk that set the stage for SVB’s stunning meltdown.*

22 \* \* \*

23 “They thought they could never go wrong,” said a former bank official who spoke on  
24 the condition of anonymity to discuss internal business practices, recalling an internal  
25 stress test in late 2018 or 2019 that showed SVB could lose at least a third of its  
26 deposits over two years. Executives directed that that model also be reworked. “If they  
27 see a model they don’t like,” the official said, “they scrap it.”

28 Kate Mitchell, a venture capitalist and chair of the SVB board’s risk committee, didn’t  
respond to a request for comment.

The behavior of customers depositing money is a key variable that banks use in  
developing risk models. One metric, closely tracked by banks and their examiners,  
estimates future cash flows and how sensitive they are to changes in interest rates. It  
was this metric, called the economic value of equity, that triggered a warning in mid-  
2020, according to the former employees.

69. The Offering Materials failed to disclose the risks from SVB’s comparatively narrow,  
highly concentrated and flighty base of clients which rendered SVB’s deposit base particularly at  
risk. As Bloomberg reported on April 1, 2023: “There’s all these venture-capital funded companies  
that have \$5, \$10, \$20, \$25, sometimes hundreds of millions of dollars parked with this little bank,”

1 he said. “And you can move money with the click of a mouse now. And then they’re all talking to  
2 one another. So in retrospect, it’s like yeah, should have seen that one coming more easily.”<sup>5</sup>

3 70. The Offering Materials failed to disclose that the deposit risk the Company faced  
4 because it lacked a diversified customer base was amplified by the large percentage of uninsured  
5 deposits at SVB.<sup>6</sup>

6 71. Because depositors with uninsured deposits are exposed to the danger that they will  
7 lose everything if a bank fails, they are much more likely to withdraw their money, triggering a self-  
8 fulfilling cycle in which customers withdraw cash, forcing the bank into a fire sale of assets that  
9 further drives down their value. The Offering Materials did not disclose the uninsured depositor risk  
10 that SVB faced.

11 72. The Offering Materials included additional false and misleading statements. For  
12 example, the Risk Factors section of SVB’s 2020 10-K stated:

13 **Liquidity risk could impair our ability to fund operations and jeopardize our**  
14 **financial condition.**<sup>7</sup>

15 Liquidity is essential to our business, both at the SVB Financial and the Bank level.  
16 We require sufficient liquidity to meet our expected financial obligations, as well as  
17 unexpected requirements stemming from client activity and market changes, such as  
18 the unexpected cash outflows that occurred at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic  
19 when certain clients increased utilization of their credit lines. . . . ***The primary source***  
20 ***of liquidity for the Bank is client deposits.*** When needed, our liquidity is  
21 supplemented by wholesale borrowing capacity in the form of short- and long-term  
22 borrowings secured by our portfolio of high-quality investment securities, long-term  
23 capital market debt issuances and unsecured overnight funding channels available to  
24 us in the Federal Funds market. An inability to maintain or raise funds through these  
25 sources could have a substantial negative effect, individually or collectively, on SVB  
26 Financial and the Bank’s liquidity. Our access to funding sources in amounts adequate  
27 to finance our activities, or on terms attractive to us, could be impaired by factors that  
28 affect us specifically or the financial services industry in general. For example, ***factors***  
***that could detrimentally impact our access to liquidity sources include a decrease in***

24 <sup>5</sup>[https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-04-01/svb-s-fall-stunned-even-the-one-stock-](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-04-01/svb-s-fall-stunned-even-the-one-stock-analyst-who-said-to-sell)  
25 [analyst-who-said-to-sell](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-04-01/svb-s-fall-stunned-even-the-one-stock-analyst-who-said-to-sell)

26 <sup>6</sup> While the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) insures bank deposits up to \$250,000, the  
27 great majority of deposits in SVB (by value) were above \$250,000.

28 <sup>7</sup> Bolding in original.

1 *the level of our business activity due to a market downturn or adverse regulatory*  
2 *action against us, a downturn in asset markets such that the collateral we hold*  
3 *cannot be realized or is liquidated at prices not sufficient to recover the full amount*  
4 *of our secured obligations, a reduction in our credit rating, any damage to our*  
5 *reputation or any other decrease in depositor or investor confidence in our*  
6 *creditworthiness and business. Our access to liquidity could also be impaired by*  
7 *factors that are not specific to us, such as laws and regulations that limit the amount*  
8 *of intercompany dividends that bank subsidiaries may pay, severe volatility or*  
9 *disruption of the financial markets or negative views and expectations about*  
10 *prospects for the financial services industry as a whole.* Any such event or failure to  
11 manage our liquidity effectively could affect our competitive position, increase our  
12 borrowing costs and the interest rates we pay on deposits, limit our access to the capital  
13 markets and have a material adverse effect on our financial condition.

14 (emphasis added).

15 73. The Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of  
16 Operations ("MD&A") section of SVB's 2020 10-K, incorporated by reference into the Offering  
17 Materials, stated:

18 Net gains on investment securities include gains and losses from our non-marketable  
19 and other equity securities, which include public equity securities held as a result of  
20 exercised equity warrant assets, as well as gains and losses from sales of our AFS debt  
21 securities portfolio, when applicable.

22 Our non-marketable and other equity securities portfolio primarily represents  
23 investments in venture capital and private equity funds, including a joint venture bank  
24 in China, debt funds, the newly acquired managed credit platform, private and public  
25 portfolio companies and qualified affordable housing projects. We experience  
26 variability in the performance of our non-marketable and other equity securities from  
27 period to period, which results in net gains or losses on investment securities (both  
28 realized and unrealized). This variability is due to a number of factors, including  
unrealized changes in the values of our investments, changes in the amount of realized  
gains and losses from distributions, changes in liquidity events and general economic  
and market conditions. Unrealized gains or losses from non-marketable and other  
equity securities for any single period are typically driven by valuation changes, and  
are therefore subject to potential increases or decreases in future periods. Such  
variability may lead to volatility in the gains or losses from investment securities. As  
such, our results for a particular period are not necessarily indicative of our expected  
performance in a future period.

The extent to which any unrealized gains or losses will become realized is subject to  
a variety of factors, including, among other things, the expiration of certain sales  
restrictions to which these equity securities may be subject to (e.g. lock-up  
agreements), changes in prevailing market prices, market conditions, the actual sales  
or distributions of securities and the timing of such actual sales or distributions, which,

1 to the extent such securities are managed by our managed funds, are subject to our  
2 funds' separate discretionary sales/distributions and governance processes.

3 Our AFS securities portfolio is a fixed income investment portfolio that is managed  
4 with the objective of earning an appropriate portfolio yield over the long-term while  
5 maintaining sufficient liquidity and credit diversification as well as addressing our  
6 asset/liability management objectives. *Though infrequent, sales of debt securities in  
our AFS securities portfolio may result in net gains or losses and are conducted  
pursuant to the guidelines of our investment policy related to the management of  
our liquidity position and interest rate risk.*

7 (emphasis added).

8 74. With respect to interest rate derivatives and swaps, the MD&A section of SVB's 2020  
9 10-K, incorporated by reference into the Offering Materials, also stated:

10 *Client Interest Rate Derivatives*

11 We sell interest rate contracts to clients who wish to mitigate their interest rate  
12 exposure. *We economically reduce the interest rate risk from this business by  
13 entering into opposite way contracts with correspondent banks. . . .*

14 *Interest Rate Swaps*

15 *To manage interest rate risk on our variable-interest rate loan portfolio, we enter  
16 into interest rate swap contracts to hedge against future changes in interest rates* by  
17 using hedging instruments to lock in future cash inflows that would otherwise be  
impacted by movements in the market interest rates.

18 (emphasis added; italics in original).

19 75. With respect to interest rate risk management, SVB's 2020 10-K, incorporated by  
20 reference into the Offering Materials, stated:

21 **Interest Rate Risk Management<sup>8</sup>**

22 Market risk is defined as the risk of adverse fluctuations in the market value of  
23 financial instruments due to changes in market interest rates. *Interest rate risk is our  
24 primary market risk and can result from timing and volume differences in the  
25 repricing of our rate-sensitive assets and liabilities, widening or tightening of credit  
26 spreads, changes in the general level of market interest rates and changes in the  
shape and level of the benchmark interest rates. Additionally, changes in interest  
rates can influence the rate of principal prepayments on mortgage securities, which  
affects the rate of amortization of purchase premiums and discounts.* Other market

27  
28 <sup>8</sup> Bolding in original.

1 risks include foreign currency exchange risk and equity price risk (including the effect  
2 of competition on product pricing). These risks and related impacts are important  
3 market considerations but are inherently difficult to assess through simulation results.  
4 Consequently, simulations used to analyze the sensitivity of net interest income to  
5 changes in interest rates will differ from actual results due to differences in the timing  
6 and frequency of rate resets, the magnitude of changes in market rates, the impact of  
7 competition, fluctuating business conditions and the impact of strategies taken by  
8 management to mitigate these risks.

9 . . .

10 *Interest rate risk is managed primarily through strategies involving our fixed*  
11 *income securities portfolio, available funding channels and capital market activities.*  
12 *In addition, our policies permit the use of off-balance sheet derivatives, such as*  
13 *interest rate swaps, to assist with managing interest rate risk.*

14 (emphasis added).

15 76. SVB's 2020 10-K, incorporated by reference into the Offering Materials, also  
16 represented that the Company had implemented a risk management system to identify and manage  
17 risks including market and liquidity risk and that "if" the risk management framework is not  
18 effective, the Company "could" suffer losses:

19 **An ineffective risk management framework could have a material adverse effect**  
20 **on our strategic planning and our ability to mitigate risks and/or losses and could**  
21 **have adverse regulatory consequences.**

22 We have implemented a risk management framework to identify and manage our risk  
23 exposure. This framework is comprised of various processes, systems and strategies,  
24 and is designed to manage the types of risk to which we are subject, including, among  
25 others, credit, market, liquidity, operational, capital, compliance, strategic and  
26 reputational risks. Our framework also includes financial, analytical, forecasting or  
27 other modeling methodologies, which involve management assumptions and  
28 judgment. In addition, our Board of Directors, in consultation with management, has  
adopted a risk appetite statement, which sets forth certain thresholds and limits to  
govern our overall risk profile. However, there is no assurance that our risk  
management framework, including the risk metrics under our risk appetite statement,  
will be effective under all circumstances or that it will adequately identify, manage or  
mitigate any risk or loss to us. If our risk management framework is not effective, we  
could suffer unexpected losses and become subject to regulatory consequences, as a  
result of which our business, financial condition, results of operations or prospects  
could be materially adversely affected.

(emphasis in original).

1 77. SVB's 2020 10-K, incorporated by reference into the Offering Materials, also  
2 represented that SVB maintained effective controls, that "if" such controls became ineffective, it  
3 "may" harm the Company and "could" adversely effect SVB's business, financial condition or  
4 results of operation:

5 **If we fail to maintain an effective system of internal control over financial**  
6 **reporting, we may not be able to accurately report our financial results. As a**  
7 **result, current and potential holders of our securities could lose confidence in our**  
8 **financial reporting, which would harm our business and the trading price of our**  
9 **securities.**

10 Maintaining and adapting our internal controls over financial reporting, as required by  
11 Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act and related rules and regulations of the SEC,  
12 can be costly and require significant management attention. As we continue to grow  
13 or acquire additional businesses, our internal controls may become more complex and  
14 require additional resources to ensure they remain effective amidst dynamic regulatory  
15 and other guidance. Failure to maintain effective controls or implement required new  
16 or improved controls or difficulties encountered in the process may harm our operating  
17 results or cause us to fail to meet our reporting obligations. If we or our independent  
18 registered accounting firm identify material weaknesses in our internal controls over  
19 financial reporting or if we are otherwise required to restate our financial statements,  
20 we could be required to implement costly and time-consuming remedial measures and  
21 could lose investor confidence in the accuracy and completeness of our financial  
22 reports. We may also face regulatory enforcement or other actions, including the  
23 potential delisting of our common stock from the NASDAQ Stock Market. This could  
24 have an adverse effect on our business, financial condition or results of operations, as  
25 well as the trading price of our securities, and could potentially subject us to litigation.

26 (emphasis in original).

27 78. SVB's 2020 10-K, incorporated by reference into the Offering Materials, also stated  
28 that SVB used quantitative models to manage risk, including estimating the effects of changing  
interest rates, and that the Company "could" face material adverse effects "if" the assumptions in the  
model are inappropriate or if the models are deficient:

29 **We rely on quantitative models to measure risks and to estimate certain financial**  
30 **values.**

31 Quantitative models may be used to help manage certain aspects of our business and  
32 to assist with certain business decisions, including estimating credit losses, measuring  
33 the fair value of financial instruments when reliable market prices are unavailable,  
34 estimating the effects of changing interest rates and other market measures on our  
35 financial condition and results of operations, and managing risk. However, all models  
36 have certain limitations. For example, our measurement methodologies rely on many



1 assumptions, historical analyses and correlations. These assumptions may not capture  
2 or fully incorporate conditions leading to losses, particularly in times of market  
3 distress, and the historical correlations on which we rely may no longer be relevant.  
4 Additionally, as businesses and markets evolve, our measurements may not accurately  
5 reflect the changing environment. Further, even if the underlying assumptions and  
6 historical correlations used in our models are adequate, our models may be deficient  
7 due to errors in computer code, bad data, misuse of data, or the use of a model for a  
8 purpose outside the scope of the model's design. Although we employ strategies to  
9 manage and govern the risks associated with our use of models, they may not be  
10 effective or fully reliable. As a result, our models may not capture or fully express the  
11 risks we face, suggest that we have sufficient capitalization when we do not, lead us  
12 to misjudge the business and economic environment in which we operate and  
13 ultimately cause planning failures or the reporting of incorrect information to our  
14 regulators. Any such occurrence or the perception of such occurrence by our  
15 regulators, investors or clients could in turn have a material adverse effect on our  
16 business, financial condition, results of operations or reputation.

17 (emphasis in original).

18 79. Each of the statements from the Offering Materials excerpted above were false and  
19 misleading for numerous reasons. The Offering Materials failed to disclose that higher interest rates  
20 were already jeopardizing the bank's future earnings, and worse, instead of mitigating such risks,  
21 SVB had exacerbated those risks by, *inter alia*, overconcentrating in long-duration investments to  
22 deliver short-term profits. Moreover, the Offering Materials failed to disclose that SVB's executives  
23 had disregarded duration risks and internal assessments, including recommendations to purchase  
24 shorter-term bonds to hedge its balance sheet, which would have offset the material risk of losses  
25 from rising interest rates, and instead continued investing in long-term bonds to drive short-term  
26 profits. Additionally, the Offering Materials failed to disclose that Defendants ignored internal risk  
27 management alarms, had failed to reasonably address and comply with key risk metrics, and had  
28 altered assumptions underlying internal models that showed higher interest rates could devastate  
SVB's future earnings, using unreasonable and improper tweaks to those models to mask the  
undisclosed risks and facilitate SVB's short-term profit-driven strategy. The Offering Materials also  
failed to disclose that SVB lacked effective internal controls, had deficient risk management systems,  
its holding Company had been rated as deficient under the CAMELS (acronym for Capital adequacy,  
Assets, Management capability, Earnings, Liquidity, Sensitivity) rating system, regulators had  
warned SVB that its risk management systems were inadequate and below the Federal Reserve's

1 expectations, and SVB was already facing many serious operational and technological problems,  
2 impairing the Company's ability to track risks, including interest rate risks, among other matters.  
3 Further still, the Offering Materials failed to disclose that SVB lacked a diversified customer base,  
4 was over-reliant on a small, highly concentrated group of large, uninsured depositors tied into the  
5 same, insular venture capital networks, and thus an overwhelmingly inordinate percentage of SVB  
6 deposits across that non-diversified customer base was particularly susceptible to the risk of a run  
7 on the bank. Moreover, the Offering Materials failed to disclose that SVB's liquidity was less than  
8 represented by Defendants and, in truth, inadequate in view of its customers' business and their  
9 collective deposits. Accordingly, the Offering Materials failed to disclose the extent and severity of  
10 the undisclosed material market risks, including the interest rate risk, uninsured depositor risk and  
11 liquidity risk that SVB faced.

12 80. SVB's 2020 10-K, incorporated by reference into the Offering Materials, also  
13 discussed a model for the effect of interest rate changes of 1 and 2 percentage points (100 and 200  
14 basis points). In pertinent part, SVB's 2020 10-K stated:

15 ***Rapid deposit growth has exceeded the pace of our loan growth***, and as a result, a  
16 significant amount of excess deposits not used to fund loan growth have contributed  
17 to the growth of our cash and investments balances. Much of the investment portfolio  
18 is held in fixed rate MBS and CMOs which generally have a higher market value  
19 sensitivity than variable rate loans or cash. Thus, ***under an upward rate shock***  
20 ***scenario, the market value of investments changes more than the market value of***  
21 ***deposits resulting in a negative EVE [economic value of equity, defined as the***  
22 ***market value of assets, less the market value of liabilities] sensitivity in those***  
23 ***scenarios.***

24 (emphasis added).

25 81. These generalized statements were false and misleading for at least the reasons  
26 detailed in ¶ 79 as well as the following. First, SVB's deposit growth had not merely exceeded the  
27 pace of its loan growth. The Company's loans, which paid higher interest rates and were more  
28 profitable than its long-term debt security assets, were highly dependent on the performance of the  
technology market in Silicon Valley, which had been performing as well as it ever had in 2020, and  
hence it was unlikely that SVB would be able to substantially increase its loan portfolio without  
changing its lending model. For example, more than half of SVB's loans were capital call loans,



1 which are short-term loans to bridge the time between a call for capital from an investment firm's  
2 partners to pay for an investment and the actual receipt of the funds. Demand for capital call loans  
3 from SVB depended on the frequency of capital calls among venture capital firms investing in  
4 technology companies. That frequency was very high by historical standards in 2020 and was  
5 unlikely to continue at the same level indefinitely, much less increase. The Offering Materials failed  
6 to disclose that SVB could not substantially grow its loan business from its size in 2020.

7 82. Second, an upward rate shock would not simply result in a negative economic value  
8 of equity, as SVB suggested. It would also decrease liquidity. Hence, just as SVB's assets were  
9 decreasing in value, SVB would also need to sell assets to raise cash, resulting in heavy losses.

10 83. Third, the effect of an upward rate shock was nonlinear. SVB's simulation—which  
11 only tested up to 2 percentage points—showed that an increase of 1 percentage point in interest rates  
12 would result in a 5.9% decrease in economic value of equity, and a 2 percentage point increase would  
13 result in a 15.4% decrease in economic value of equity. But SVB did not disclose that as interest  
14 rates continued to increase (a highly probable outcome), they would exert an exponential effect on  
15 SVB's economic value of equity, resulting in total collapse of the Company at around 4-5 percentage  
16 points.

17 **The Offering Materials' False and Misleading Statements and Omissions Regarding**  
18 **Compliance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles**

19 84. Despite the Offering Materials' representations to the contrary, SVB violated  
20 Generally Accepted Accounting Principles ("GAAP").

21 85. GAAP constitutes those standards recognized by the accounting profession as the  
22 conventions, rules and procedures necessary to define accepted accounting practices at a particular  
23 time. The SEC has the statutory authority for the promulgation of GAAP for public companies and  
24 has delegated that authority to the Financial Accounting Standards Board (the "FASB") and the  
25 American Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("AICPA"). SEC Regulation S-X, Rule 4-01,  
26 17 C.F.R. § 210.4-01(a)(1), provides that financial statements filed with the SEC that are not  
27 presented in conformity with GAAP will be presumed to be misleading, despite footnotes or other  
28 disclosures.

1 86. GAAP consists of a hierarchy of authoritative literature. The highest authority is the  
2 Accounting Standards Codification, or ASC, formerly the FASB Statements of Financial Accounting  
3 Standards (FAS), followed by FASB Interpretations (FIN), FASB Staff Positions (FSP), Accounting  
4 Principles Board Opinions (APB), AICPA Accounting Research Bulletins (ARB), AICPA  
5 Statements of Position (SOP), and AICPA Industry Audit and Accounting Guides (AAG). GAAP  
6 provides other authoritative pronouncements including, among others, the FASB Concept  
7 Statements (FASCON).

8 87. As set forth in ASC 105-10-05-1, the FASB Accounting Standards Codification is  
9 the source of authoritative GAAP:

10 This Topic establishes the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Accounting  
11 Standards Codification® (Codification) as the source of authoritative generally  
12 accepted accounting principles (GAAP) recognized by the FASB to be applied by  
13 nongovernmental entities. Rules and interpretive releases of the Securities and  
14 Exchange Commission (SEC) under authority of federal securities laws are also  
15 sources of authoritative GAAP for SEC registrants. In addition to the SEC's rules and  
16 interpretive releases, the SEC staff issues Staff Accounting Bulletins that represent  
practices followed by the staff in administering SEC disclosure requirements, and it  
utilizes SEC Staff Announcements and Observer comments made at Emerging Issues  
Task Force meetings to publicly announce its views on certain accounting issues for  
SEC registrants.

17 88. Additionally, under ASC 105-10-05-3, the following non-authoritative sources of  
18 accounting guidance may be relevant depending on circumstances, including the specificity of the  
19 guidance, the general recognition of the issuer or author as an authority, and the extent of its use in  
20 practice:

21 Accounting and financial reporting practices not included in the Codification are  
22 nonauthoritative. Sources of nonauthoritative accounting guidance and literature  
include, for example, the following:

- 23 a. Practices that are widely recognized and prevalent either generally or in the  
24 industry
- 25 b. FASB Concepts Statements (FASCON)
- 26 c. American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) Issues Papers
- 27 d. International Financial Reporting Standards of the International Accounting  
Standards Board
- 28 e. Pronouncements of professional associations or regulatory agencies
- f. Technical Information Service Inquiries and Replies included in AICPA  
Technical Practice Aids

1 g. Accounting textbooks, handbooks, and articles.

2 The appropriateness of other sources of accounting guidance depends on its relevance  
3 to particular circumstances, the specificity of the guidance, the general recognition of  
4 the issuer or author as an authority, and the extent of its use in practice.

5 89. SVB was expected to adhere to fundamental accounting principles that state a  
6 Company's financial statements should be presented in a manner which, among other things, should:

7 (a) Provide information that is useful to present and potential investors and creditors and  
8 other users in making rational investment, credit and similar decisions. (FASCON 1 ¶ 34);

9 (b) Provide information about an enterprise's economic resources, obligations, and owners'  
10 equity. That information helps investors, creditors, and others identify the enterprise's  
11 financial strengths and weaknesses and assess its liquidity and solvency. (FASCON 1 ¶ 40);

12 (c) Provide information about an enterprise's financial performance during a period.  
13 "Investors and creditors often use information about the past to help in assessing the  
14 prospects of an enterprise. Thus, although investment and credit decisions reflect investors'  
15 and creditors' expectations about future enterprise performance, those expectations are  
16 commonly based at least partly on evaluations of past enterprise performance." (FASCON 1  
17 ¶ 42);

18 (d) Include explanations and interpretations to help users understand financial information  
19 because management knows more about the enterprise and its affairs than investors,  
20 creditors, or other "outsiders" and can often increase the usefulness of financial information  
21 by identifying certain transactions, other events, and circumstances that affect the enterprise  
22 and explaining their financial impact on it. (FASCON 1 ¶ 54);

23 (e) Be reliable in that it represents what it purports to represent. That information should be  
24 reliable as well as relevant is a notion that is central to accounting. (FASCON 2 ¶¶ 58-59);

25 (f) Be complete, which means that nothing material is left out of the information that may be  
26 necessary to ensure that it validly represents underlying events and conditions. (FASCON 2  
27 ¶ 79);

28 (g) Be verifiable in that it provides a significant degree of assurance that accounting  
measures represent what they purport to represent. (FASCON 2 ¶ 81); and

(h) Reflect that conservatism be used as a prudent reaction to uncertainty to try to ensure  
that uncertainties and risks inherent in business situations are adequately considered.  
(FASCON 2 ¶¶ 95, 97).

90. SVB was subject to risks associated with depository and lending institutions. One  
such risk factor identified by the AICPA in the applicable AAG was "significant declines in customer  
demand and increasing business failures in either the industry or overall economy," including

1 “deteriorating economic conditions . . . within industries or geographic regions in which the  
2 institution has significant credit concentrations.” (Ch. 5, Audit Considerations and Certain Financial  
3 Reporting Matters, Ex. 5-1, Fraud Risk Factors).

4 91. The AAG identifies another risk factor for lenders as occurring when “[v]acant staff  
5 positions remain unfulfilled for extended periods, thereby preventing the proper segregation of  
6 duties,” and when there exists an “[u]nderstaffed accounting or information technology department,  
7 inexperienced or ineffective accounting or information technology personnel, or high turnover.”

8 92. Among the risk factors the AICPA identifies are “concentration in a particular type  
9 of financial instrument” and “a failure by management and those charged with governance to set  
10 parameters (for example, trading limits, credit limits, and aggregate market risk limits) and to  
11 continuously monitor trading activities against those parameters.”

12 93. ASC 450 (formerly Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 5, Accounting  
13 for Contingencies) defines a loss contingency as “an existing condition, situation, or set of  
14 circumstances involving uncertainty as to [a] possible . . . loss to an enterprise that will ***ultimately***  
15 ***be resolved when one or more future events occur or fail to occur.***” Under ASC 450, a charge to  
16 income should be taken if “(1) Information (before financial statements are issued) indicates that it  
17 is probable that an asset has been impaired or a liability incurred at the date of the financial statement;  
18 and (2) Amount of loss is reasonably estimable. Further, ASC 450 requires disclosure in the  
19 footnotes to the financial statements for material loss contingencies and/or significant risks and  
20 uncertainties. The occurrence, or non-occurrence, of a future event meets the definition of a loss  
21 contingency under GAAP. Under ASC 450, disclosing a loss contingency in the notes to the  
22 financial statements is ***required*** when there is more than a remote chance that a loss will be incurred  
23 (even if a reliable estimate of eventual losses cannot be made at the time). The threshold for  
24 disclosure of a loss contingency (as opposed to a higher threshold for the ***accrual*** of a loss  
25 contingency) is very low – GAAP requires disclosure if, “[t]he chance of the future event or events  
26 ***occurring is more than remote but less than likely.***” Under ASC 450: “***The disclosure shall***  
27 ***indicate the nature of the contingency and shall give an estimate of the possible loss or range of***  
28 ***loss or state that such an estimate cannot be made.***” Defendants failed to account or disclose the

1 loss contingencies SVB faced, including from material market risks, such as interest rate risk,  
2 uninsured depositor risk and liquidity risks.

3 94. Contrary to Defendants' representations in the Offering Materials, SVB's  
4 incorporated financial statements and other disclosures were not in compliance with GAAP in  
5 numerous respects. SVB had violated of GAAP, including the standards detailed above, by failing  
6 to properly account for the following matters.

7 95. The Offering Materials failed to disclose that higher interest rates were already  
8 jeopardizing the bank's future earnings, and worse, instead of mitigating such risks, SVB had  
9 exacerbated those risks by, *inter alia*, overconcentrating in long-duration investments to deliver  
10 short-term profits. Moreover, the Offering Materials failed to disclose that SVB's executives had  
11 disregarded duration risks and internal assessments, including recommendations to purchase shorter-  
12 term bonds to hedge its balance sheet, which would have offset the material risk of losses from rising  
13 interest rates, and instead continued investing in long-term bonds to drive short-term profits.  
14 Additionally, the Offering Materials failed to disclose that Defendants ignored internal risk  
15 management alarms, had failed to reasonably address and comply with key risk metrics, and had  
16 altered assumptions underlying internal models that showed higher interest rates could devastate  
17 SVB's future earnings, using unreasonable and improper tweaks to those models to mask the  
18 undisclosed risks and facilitate SVB's short-term profit-driven strategy. Further, the Offering  
19 Materials failed to provide requisite quantitative disclosures to reflect reasonably possible near-term  
20 changes to interest rates, thereby misrepresenting and failing to disclose the critical change in the  
21 Company's market risk exposure, including interest rate risk, as well as how it would manage such  
22 risk. The Offering Materials also failed to disclose that SVB lacked effective internal controls, had  
23 deficient risk management systems, its holding Company had been rated as deficient under the  
24 CAMELS (acronym for Capital adequacy, Assets, Management capability, Earnings, Liquidity,  
25 Sensitivity) rating system, regulators had warned SVB that its risk management systems were  
26 inadequate and below the Federal Reserve's expectations, and SVB was already facing many serious  
27 operational and technological problems, impairing the Company's ability to track risks, including  
28 interest rate risks, among other matters. Further still, the Offering Materials failed to disclose that

1 SVB lacked a diversified customer base, was over-reliant on a small, highly concentrated group of  
2 large, uninsured depositors tied into the same, insular venture capital networks, and thus an  
3 overwhelmingly inordinate percentage of SVB deposits across that non-diversified customer base  
4 was particularly susceptible to the risk of a run on the bank. Moreover, the Offering Materials failed  
5 to disclose that SVB's liquidity was less than represented by Defendants and, in truth, inadequate in  
6 view of its customers' business and their collective deposits. Accordingly, the Offering Materials  
7 failed to disclose the extent and severity of the undisclosed material market risks, including interest  
8 rate risk, uninsured depositor risk and liquidity risks that SVB faced.

9 **The Offering Materials Falsely and Misleadingly Represented that SVB's Internal**  
10 **Controls Over Financial Reporting Were Effective Despite Pervasive Operational and**  
11 **Technological Issues, Including Critical Problems Tracking Interest Rate Risk**

12 96. SVB falsely asserted in its Offering Materials that it maintained effective internal  
13 controls over financial reporting. In fact, SVB lacked effective internal controls and the absence of  
14 such controls facilitated SVB misrepresenting, among other matters, that:

15 (a) It was exposed to significantly less risk, including market risk such as interest  
16 rate risk, liquidity risk, and uninsured depositor risk, than was inherent in the assets it held;

17 (b) Its risk management personnel and procedures were effective and reliable,  
18 when they were not;

19 (c) It was able to make reasonable estimates of the fair value of its financial  
20 instruments; and

21 (d) The fair value of the Company's financial instruments and other assets was  
22 reasonable.

23 97. COSO defines "internal controls" in Chapter 1 of its Framework as follows:

24 Internal control is a process, effected by an entity's board of directors, management  
25 and other personnel, designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the  
26 achievement of objectives in the following categories: (i) Effectiveness and efficiency  
27 of operations; (ii) Reliability of financial reporting; (iii) Compliance with applicable  
28 laws and regulations.

98. Moreover, COSO emphasizes the importance of a strong control environment, which  
sets a positive "tone at the top" and then flows down through the Company. The COSO Framework



1 Executive Summary identifies the pervasive influence that the control environment has on the  
2 Company, as follows:

3 The control environment sets the tone of an organization, influencing the control  
4 consciousness of its people. It is the foundation for all other components of internal  
5 control, providing discipline and structure. Control environment factors include the  
6 integrity, ethical values and competence of the entity's people; management's  
7 philosophy and operating style; the way management assigns authority and  
8 responsibility, and organizes and develops its people; and the attention and direction  
9 provided by the board of directors.

10 99. In addition, the COSO Framework, Ch. 2, establishes that management's philosophy  
11 and operating style directly affects the manner in which the company is managed, the amount of risk  
12 that the company accepts and ultimately the success of the company. Chapter 2 of the COSO  
13 Framework states:

14 Management's philosophy and operating style affect the way the enterprise is  
15 managed, including the kinds of business risks accepted...Other elements of  
16 management's philosophy and operating style include attitudes toward financial  
17 reporting, conservative or aggressive selection from available alternative accounting  
18 principles, conscientiousness and conservatism with which accounting estimates are  
19 developed, and attitudes toward data processing and accounting functions and  
20 personnel. . . . The impact of an ineffective control environment could be far reaching,  
21 possibly resulting in a financial loss, a tarnished public image or a business failure.

22 100. Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 ("the Sarbanes-Oxley Act") requires  
23 management to assess the effectiveness of the internal control structure and the financial reporting  
24 for procedures. Management is responsible for performing this assessment in the context of a top-  
25 down risk assessment, which requires management to base both the scope of its assessment and the  
26 evidence gathered on risk. Management's conclusion of its assessment of the effectiveness of the  
27 Company's internal control must be included in the Company's annual report. Moreover, it was  
28 crucial for SVB to regularly monitor those controls to verify their operating effectiveness.

101. Further, SEC rules require management to report publicly all material weaknesses in  
the Company's internal controls.

102. Defendants Becker and Beck were required under Rule 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley  
Act to provide assurances relating to the Company's "internal control over financial reporting." Rule  
302 states as follows:

1 [E]ach annual report . . . [should] contain an internal control report, which shall: (1)  
2 state the responsibility of management for establishing and maintaining an adequate  
3 internal control structure and procedures for financial reporting; and (2) contain an  
4 assessment, as of the end of the most recent fiscal year of the issuer, of the  
effectiveness of the internal control structure and procedures of the issuer for financial  
reporting.

5 103. In connection with the Offering Materials, Defendants Becker and Beck executed the  
6 applicable Rule 302 certification on March 1, 2021.

7 104. The Offering Materials failed to disclose that in January 2019, regulators warned SVB  
8 that its risk management systems were inadequate, and also warned SVB in 2020 that its risk  
9 management systems were below the Federal Reserve's expectations. As reported by the Wall Street  
10 Journal on March 19, 2023:

11 The Federal Reserve raised concerns about risk management at Silicon Valley Bank  
12 starting at least four years before its failure earlier this month, documents show.

13 In January 2019, the Fed issued a warning to SVB over its risk-management systems,  
14 according to a presentation circulated last year to employees of SVB's venture-capital  
arm, which was viewed by The Wall Street Journal.

15 The Fed issued what it calls a Matter Requiring Attention, a type of citation that is less  
16 severe than an enforcement action. Regulators are supposed to make sure the problem  
is addressed, but it couldn't be learned if the Fed held SVB to that standard in 2019.

17 \* \* \*

18 Following the 2019 warning, the Fed informed SVB in 2020 that its system to control  
19 risk didn't meet the expectations for a large financial institution, or a bank holding  
20 company with more than \$100 billion in assets, the presentation to employees at SVB's  
venture-capital arm said.

21 Large banks that don't meet the Fed's expectations are supposed to take corrective  
22 action to fix the problems or potentially face enforcement actions.

23 At that time, the bank was growing quickly as deposits poured in during the early  
24 months of the pandemic. The average level of interest-earning assets grew 76% in the  
25 first quarter of 2021, compared with the same period one year earlier, the presentation  
said.

26 The bank's assets rose to \$114 billion at the end of 2020, from about \$70 billion in  
27 2019, the year the Fed voiced its concerns. They nearly doubled from 2020 to the end  
28 of 2021 to about \$209 billion, according to Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. data.



1 The Fed's criticism of SVB's risk-management systems raises the question of "why  
2 were they allowed to double their size after that," said Keith Noreika, an executive  
3 vice president at Patomak Global Partners who served as acting Comptroller of the  
Currency in 2017.<sup>9</sup>

4 105. The Offering Materials failed to disclose that SVB lacked effective internal controls  
5 to reduce the risk of material losses from quickly rising interest rates:

6 In late 2020, the firm's asset-liability committee received an internal recommendation  
7 to buy shorter-term bonds as more deposits flowed in, according to documents viewed  
8 by Bloomberg. That shift would reduce the risk of sizable losses if interest rates  
quickly rose. But it would have a cost: an estimated \$18 million reduction in earnings,  
with a \$36 million hit going forward from there.

9 Executives balked. Instead, the company continued to plow cash into higher-yielding  
10 assets. That helped profit jump 52% to a record in 2021 and helped the firm's valuation  
11 soar past \$40 billion. But as rates soared in 2022, the firm racked up more than \$16  
billion of unrealized losses on its bond holdings.

12 Throughout last year, some employees pleaded to reposition the company's balance  
13 sheet into shorter duration bonds. The asks were repeatedly rejected, according to a  
14 person familiar with the conversations. The firm did start to put on some hedges and  
sell assets late last year, but the moves proved too late.<sup>10</sup>

15 106. The Offering Materials also failed to disclose that SVB had many serious operational  
16 and technological problems and weaknesses which examiners appointed by the Federal Reserve  
17 Bank of San Francisco identified, and that triggered formal warnings to SVB's executives. As  
18 reported by Bloomberg on March 17, 2023:

19 Just over a year before Silicon Valley Bank's collapse threatened a generation of technology  
20 startups and their backers, the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco appointed a more  
senior team of examiners to assess the firm. They started calling out problem after problem.

21 As the upgraded crew took over, it fired off a series of formal warnings to the bank's  
22 leaders, pressing them to fix serious weaknesses in operations and technology, according to  
23 people with knowledge of the matter.

24  
25  
26 <sup>9</sup><https://www.wsj.com/articles/fed-raised-concerns-about-svbs-risk-management-in-2019-4a1d802c>

27 <sup>10</sup><https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-03-13/svb-failure-sparks-blame-game-over-trump-era-regulatory-rollback#xj4y7vzkg>  
28

1 Then late last year they flagged a critical problem: The bank needed to improve how it  
2 tracked interest-rate risks, one of the people said, an issue at the heart of its abrupt downfall  
this month.<sup>11</sup>

3 107. The Offering Materials also failed to disclose that SVB had critical problems in  
4 tracking interest rate risk including billions of dollars in unrealized losses. As Bloomberg reported  
5 on March 31, 2023, Federal Reserve examiners identified this “critical problem” at SVB in late 2022:

6 Late last year, Fed examiners identified a critical problem: the bank needed to improve  
7 how it tracked interest-rate risks. The firm had about \$15 billion in unrealized losses  
8 at year-end on mortgage-backed securities that it loaded up when rates were lower.<sup>12</sup>

9 108. By 2021, as well, SVB’s liquidity problems were clear to insiders. According to the  
10 *New York Times*, in 2021, “[s]upervisors at the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, which  
11 oversaw Silicon Valley Bank, issued six citations” designated as “matters requiring attention”  
12 (MRAs) or “matters requiring immediate attention” (MRIAs). The warnings “flagged that the firm  
13 was doing a bad job of ensuring that it would have enough easy-to-tap cash on hand in the event of  
14 trouble.” The article stated in part:

15 Silicon Valley Bank’s risky practices were on the Federal Reserve’s radar for more  
than a year — an awareness that proved insufficient to stop the bank’s demise.

16 The Fed repeatedly warned the bank that it had problems, according to a person  
17 familiar with the matter.

18 In 2021, a Fed review of the growing bank found serious weaknesses in how it was  
19 handling key risks. Supervisors at the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, which  
20 oversaw Silicon Valley Bank, issued six citations. Those warnings, known as “matters  
21 requiring attention” and “matters requiring immediate attention,” flagged that the firm  
was doing a bad job of ensuring that it would have enough easy-to-tap cash on hand  
in the event of trouble.

22 But the bank did not fix its vulnerabilities. By July 2022, Silicon Valley Bank was in  
23 a full supervisory review — getting a more careful look — and was ultimately rated  
24 deficient for governance and controls. It was placed under a set of restrictions that  
prevented it from growing through acquisitions. Last autumn, staff members from the

25 <sup>11</sup>[https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-03-17/fed-alarms-at-svb-began-more-than-year-](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-03-17/fed-alarms-at-svb-began-more-than-year-ago-as-examiners-changed)  
26 [ago-as-examiners-changed](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-03-17/fed-alarms-at-svb-began-more-than-year-ago-as-examiners-changed)

27 <sup>12</sup>[https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-03-21/svb-s-loans-to-insiders-tripled-to-219-](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-03-21/svb-s-loans-to-insiders-tripled-to-219-million-before-it-failed?re_source=boa_related)  
28 [million-before-it-failed?re\\_source=boa\\_related](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-03-21/svb-s-loans-to-insiders-tripled-to-219-million-before-it-failed?re_source=boa_related)

1 San Francisco Fed met with senior leaders at the firm to talk about their ability to gain  
2 access to enough cash in a crisis and possible exposure to losses as interest rates rose.

3 It became clear to the Fed that the firm was using bad models to determine how its  
4 business would fare as the central bank raised rates: Its leaders were assuming that  
5 higher interest revenue would substantially help their financial situation as rates went  
6 up, but that was out of step with reality.

7 \* \* \*

8 The picture that is emerging is one of a bank whose leaders failed to plan for a realistic  
9 future and neglected looming financial and operational problems, even as they were  
10 raised by Fed supervisors. For instance, according to a person familiar with the matter,  
11 executives at the firm were told of cybersecurity problems both by internal employees  
12 and by the Fed — but ignored the concerns.<sup>13</sup>

13 109. The Federal Reserve describes MRAs as “a call for action to address weaknesses that  
14 could lead to deterioration in a banking organization’s soundness. MRAs are confidential and not  
15 publicly issued.”

16 110. The Federal Reserve describes MRIAs as “a call for more immediate action to address  
17 acute or protracted weaknesses that could lead to further deterioration in a banking organization’s  
18 soundness, may result in harm to consumers, or have caused, or could lead to, noncompliance with  
19 laws and regulations. MRIAs are confidential and not publicly issued.”

20 111. Although the MRAs and MRIAs issued by SVB’s primary regulator—as well as the  
21 risk management failings that led to them—were apparent to SVB, investors remained in the dark.

22 112. As explained above and in the Company’s regulatory filings, in doing so Defendants  
23 Becker and Beck represented to the marketplace that their assessment of internal controls over  
24 financial reporting was reliable and based upon the framework established by COSO. Also,  
25 Defendants Becker and Beck stated in the Company’s Form 10-K filings that “management  
26 concluded that the Company’s internal control over financial reporting was effective as of” the year  
27 ended 2020. These statements were false and misleading because SVB lacked effective internal  
28 controls, had deficient risk management systems, its holding Company had been rated as deficient

<sup>13</sup><https://www.nytimes.com/2023/03/19/business/economy/fed-silicon-valley-bank.html>.

1 under the CAMELS (acronym for Capital adequacy, Assets, Management capability, Earnings,  
2 Liquidity, Sensitivity) rating system, regulators had warned SVB that its risk management systems  
3 were inadequate and below the Federal Reserve’s expectations, and SVB was already facing many  
4 serious operational and technological problems, impairing the Company’s ability to track risks,  
5 including interest rate risks, among other matters. Indeed, SVB lacked effective internal controls,  
6 including over market rate risks, interest rate risks, uninsured deposit liability risks and liquidity  
7 risks, but instead of mitigating such risks, SVB had exacerbated them by, *inter alia*,  
8 overconcentrating in long-duration investments to deliver short-term profits. Additionally, SVB’s  
9 executives had disregarded duration risks and internal assessments, including recommendations to  
10 purchase shorter-term bonds to hedge its balance sheet, which would have offset the material risk of  
11 losses from rising interest rates, and instead continued investing in long-term bonds to drive short-  
12 term profits. Further, Defendants ignored internal risk management alarms, had failed to reasonably  
13 address and comply with key risk metrics, and had altered assumptions underlying internal models  
14 that showed higher interest rates could devastate SVB’s future earnings, using unreasonable and  
15 improper tweaks to those models to mask the undisclosed risks and facilitate SVB’s short-term  
16 profit-driven strategy. Because SVB’s internal controls were ineffective, management’s reports on  
17 internal control over financial reporting, required by Rule 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, were  
18 materially false and misleading. Defendants Becker’s and Beck’s statements were false and  
19 misleading because SVB’s internal controls were significantly deficient and ineffective to prevent  
20 or detect errors or misstatements in its operations and financial reporting.

21 113. Management’s assessment of internal control over financial reporting was a  
22 significant matter for investors because it provided assurance that the Company’s financial  
23 statements were reliable and in compliance with applicable laws. However, SVB did not properly  
24 assess its internal controls over financial reporting; it consequently violated the “Internal Control-  
25 Integrated Framework” issued by COSO and various other requirements found in the SEC  
26 regulations and Sarbanes-Oxley Act.

27 **The Offering Materials Violated Affirmative Disclosure Obligations Under SEC**  
28 **Regulation S-K**

1 114. Regulation S-K, Item 305, sets forth quantitative and qualitative disclosure  
2 requirements regarding market risk, including interest rate risk.

3 115. As to quantitative disclosures about market risk, Item 305(a) provides registrants  
4 three disclosure alternatives: (1) tabular presentation of fair values of the market risk sensitive  
5 instruments and contract terms sufficient to determine future cash flows from those instruments,  
6 categorized by expected maturity dates; (2) sensitivity analysis disclosures that express the potential  
7 loss in future earnings, fair values, or cash flows of market risk sensitive instruments resulting from  
8 one or more selected hypothetical changes in interest rates, foreign currency exchange rates,  
9 commodity prices, and other relevant market rates or prices over a selected period of time: or (3)  
10 value at risk disclosures that express the potential loss in future earnings, fair values, or cash flows  
11 of market risk sensitive instruments over a selected period of time, with a selected likelihood of  
12 occurrence, from changes in interest rates, foreign currency exchange rates, commodity prices, and  
13 other relevant market rates or prices. 17 C.F.R. § 229.305(a)(1)(i)-(iii).

14 116. For sensitivity analysis disclosures, Item 305(a)(1)(ii) requires registrants to describe  
15 the model, assumptions and parameters necessary to understand the sensitivity analysis disclosures.  
16 The instructions to sensitivity analysis disclosures under paragraph 305(a)(1)(ii) make clear that  
17 “Registrants should select *hypothetical changes in market rates or prices that are expected to*  
18 *reflect reasonably possible near-term changes in those rates and prices.* In this regard, absent  
19 economic justification for the selection of a different amount, registrants should use changes that are  
20 not less than 10 percent of end of period market rates or prices.” The same instructions state that  
21 “the term reasonably possible has the same meaning as defined by generally accepted accounting  
22 principles (*see, e.g.,* FASB ASC Master Glossary). The FASB ASC Master Glossary defines  
23 “reasonably possible” as “[t]he chance of the future event or events occurring is more than remote  
24 but less than likely.” Moreover, the same instructions state: “For purposes of instruction 3.A. of the  
25 Instructions to Paragraph 305(a), the term near term means a period of time going forward up to one  
26 year from the date of the financial statements (*see* FASB ASC Master Glossary).”

27 117. The instructions to Item 305(a)(1)(ii) also set forth the following requirements:  
28

1 Model, assumptions, and parameters that should be described include, but are not  
2 limited to, how *loss* is defined by the model (e.g., loss in earnings, fair values, or cash  
3 flows), a general description of the modeling technique (e.g., duration modeling,  
4 modeling that measures the change in net present values arising from selected  
5 hypothetical changes in market rates or prices, and a description as to how optionality  
6 is addressed by the model), the types of instruments covered by the model (e.g.,  
7 derivative financial instruments, other financial instruments, derivative commodity  
8 instruments, and whether other instruments are included voluntarily, such as certain  
9 commodity instruments and positions, cash flows from anticipated transactions, and  
10 certain financial instruments excluded under instruction 3.C.ii. of the General  
11 Instructions to Paragraphs 305(a) and 305(b), and other relevant information about the  
12 model's assumptions and parameters, (e.g., the magnitude and timing of selected  
13 hypothetical changes in market rates or prices used, the method by which discount  
14 rates are determined, and key prepayment or reinvestment assumptions).

15 118. Contrary to these requirements, the Offering Materials failed to disclose that  
16 Defendants ignored internal risk management alarms, had failed to reasonably address and comply  
17 with key risk metrics, and had altered assumptions underlying internal models that showed higher  
18 interest rates could devastate SVB's future earnings, using unreasonable and improper tweaks to  
19 those models to mask the undisclosed risks and facilitate SVB's short-term profit-driven strategy.  
20 Additionally, the Offering Materials failed to disclose that higher interest rates were already  
21 jeopardizing the bank's future earnings, and worse, instead of mitigating such risks, SVB had  
22 exacerbated those risks by, *inter alia*, overconcentrating in long-duration investments to deliver  
23 short-term profits. Moreover, the Offering Materials failed to disclose that SVB's executives had  
24 disregarded duration risks and internal assessments, including recommendations to purchase shorter-  
25 term bonds to hedge its balance sheet, which would have offset the material risk of losses from rising  
26 interest rates, and instead continued investing in long-term bonds to drive short-term profits.

27 119. As to qualitative disclosures about market risk, Item 305(b) requires registrants to  
28 describe, to the extent material, market risks including interest rate risk:

- 29 (i) The registrant's primary market risk exposures;
- 30 (ii) How those exposures are managed. Such descriptions shall include, but not be  
31 limited to, a discussion of the objectives, general strategies, and instruments, if any,  
32 used to manage those exposures; and
- 33 (iii) Changes in either the registrant's primary market risk exposures or how those  
34 exposures are managed, when compared to what was in effect during the most recently



1 completed fiscal year and what is known or expected to be in effect in future reporting  
2 periods.

3 120. The instructions accompanying Item 305(b) make clear that “primary market risk  
4 exposure” includes “interest rate risk,” stating:

5 1. For purposes of disclosure under paragraph 305(b), primary market risk exposures  
6 means:

7 A. The following categories of market risk: interest rate risk, foreign currency  
8 exchange rate risk, commodity price risk, and other relevant market rate or  
9 price risks (e.g., equity price risk); and

10 B. Within each of these categories, the particular markets that present the  
11 primary risk of loss to the registrant. For example, if a registrant has a material  
12 exposure to foreign currency exchange rate risk and, within this category of  
13 market risk, is most vulnerable to changes in dollar/yen, dollar/pound, and  
14 dollar/peso exchange rates, the registrant should disclose those exposures.  
15 Similarly, *if a registrant has a material exposure to interest rate risk and,  
16 within this category of market risk, is most vulnerable to changes in short-  
17 term U.S. prime interest rates, it should disclose the existence of that  
18 exposure.*

19 2. For purposes of disclosure under paragraph 305(b), registrants should describe  
20 primary market risk exposures that exist as of the end of the latest fiscal year, and how  
21 those exposures are managed.

22 121. As to the materiality assessment required under Item 305, the accompanying  
23 instructions make clear that registrants should evaluate:

24 i. The materiality of the fair values of derivative financial instruments, other  
25 financial instruments, and derivative commodity instruments outstanding as of  
26 the end of the latest fiscal year; and

27 ii. The materiality of potential, near-term losses in future earnings, fair values,  
28 and/or cash flows from reasonably possible near-term changes in market rates  
or prices.

iii. If either paragraphs B.i. or B.ii. in this instruction of the General  
Instructions to Paragraphs 305(a) and 305(b) are material, the registrant should  
disclose quantitative and qualitative information about market risk, if such  
market risk for the particular market risk exposure category is material.

122. In conducting the materiality assessment, moreover, “registrants generally should not  
net fair values, except to the extent allowed under generally accepted accounting principles,” and  
“registrants should consider, among other things, the magnitude of:

- i. Past market movements;
- ii. Reasonably possible, near-term market movements; and
- iii. Potential losses that may arise from leverage, option, and multiplier features.”

123. The SEC’s Office of the Chief Accountant and the Division of Corporation Finance has provided the following guidance on determining whether its market risk exposures are material enough to require the quantitative and qualitative disclosures under Item 305:

To determine if the quantitative and qualitative disclosures must be furnished, a company must perform the following procedure:

Step 1: Categorize its market risk sensitive instruments into two portfolios: instruments entered into for trading purposes, and all other instruments.

Step 2: further categorize instruments within the two portfolios by type of market risk exposure category (interest rate risk, foreign currency exchange rate risk, commodity price risk, etc.).

Step 3: the company must assess the materiality of the market risk exposure for each category within each portfolio. ***This assessment must evaluate both (1) the materiality of the fair values of market sensitive instruments as of the end of the latest fiscal year, and (2) the materiality of potential, near-term losses in future earnings, fair values and cash flows from reasonably possible near-term changes in market rates or prices. If either is material, then the company should disclose the quantitative and qualitative information for that particular market risk exposure.*** For these tests, registrants should not net favorable and unfavorable fair values, except where allowed under generally accepted accounting principles.

For example, assume a company has both a trading and non-trading portfolio. Each portfolio contains instruments that expose the company to changes in interest rates, foreign currency exchange rates, and commodity prices.

The company initially determines whether the fair values of market risk sensitive instruments were material at period end. If they were material, disclosure is material. If the fair values at period end were not material, the company would assess whether the interest rate sensitive instruments in its trading portfolio create a material exposure to changes in interest rates. That assessment should be made based on of [sic] fair values, cash flows, or earnings. If any of those measures is material, the company would provide quantitative information regarding its interest rate sensitive trading portfolio. Similar assessments are necessary for interest rate sensitive instruments in its non-trading portfolio, and all other exposures.

Quantitative disclosures are required only for material exposures. Thus, if the company’s only material exposure is to changes in interest rates in its trading portfolio,



1 it must present quantitative information only for that specific exposure. Quantitative  
2 disclosures about other, immaterial exposures are elective.<sup>14</sup>

3 124. With respect to sensitivity analysis disclosures, the SEC's Office of the Chief  
4 Accountant and the Division of Corporation Finance further directed that:

5 Companies using sensitivity analysis should select hypothetical changes in market  
6 rates or prices that are expected to reflect reasonably possible near-term changes in  
7 those rates and prices. Companies should use changes not less than 10% of end-of-  
8 period market rates or prices unless there is economic justification for a different  
9 amount. The rule provides that the magnitude of selected hypothetical changes in rates  
10 or prices may differ among and within market risk exposure categories.

11 \* \* \*

12 Companies must select hypothetical changes in market rates or prices that are expected  
13 to reflect reasonably possible near-term changes in those rates and prices. The rules  
14 specified the use of a change that is not less than 10%, unless there is justification for  
15 using another amount. If a company has sufficient historical data indicating that a  
16 reasonably possible near-term change will be an amount less than 10%, it may use that  
17 amount. The Company should disclose why it chose a hypothetical change less than  
18 10%.<sup>15</sup>

19 125. The SEC's Office of the Chief Accountant and the Division of Corporation Finance  
20 also made clear that Item 305 requires the following qualitative disclosures about market risks:

21 Qualitative disclosure about interest rate risk in a non-trading portfolio would include:

- 22 1) the nature of the interest rate exposure,  
23 2) how interest rate risks are managed,  
24 3) changes in interest rate exposures or how the interest rate exposures were managed  
25 when compared to the conditions that existed during the most recently completed fiscal  
26 year, and  
27 4) known trends in interest rates, or anticipated rates in future reporting periods.  
28

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.sec.gov/divisions/corpfin/guidance/derivfaq.htm>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.sec.gov/divisions/corpfin/guidance/derivfaq.htm>

1           126. The Offering Materials failed to provide the required disclosures under Item 305. The  
2 quantitative disclosures violated Item 305 because they failed to reflect “reasonably possible near  
3 term changes.” Instead, SVB used only a maximum 200 bps rate increase. It was reasonably possible  
4 at the time of the Offering Materials that the Federal Reserve would (as it ultimately did) raise  
5 interest rates to a greater degree.

6           127. The Offering Materials qualitative disclosures also violated Item 305, as they  
7 misrepresented and failed to disclose the critical change in the Company’s market risk exposure,  
8 including interest rate risk, as well as how it would manage such risk. Further, the Offering Materials  
9 failed to disclose that Defendants ignored internal alarms, failed to comply with key risk metrics,  
10 and engineered assumptions to internal models that showed that higher interest rates could devastate  
11 the SVB’s future earnings, making unreasonable and improper tweaks to the model to validate and  
12 advance SVB’s profit-driven strategy.

13           128. SEC Regulation S-K, Item 105, requires disclosure of “material” risk factors. As  
14 detailed therein, the “Risk Factor” section of the Offering Materials must “provide under the caption  
15 ‘Risk Factors’ a discussion of the material factors that make an investment in the registrant or  
16 offering speculative or risky.” 17 C.F.R. § 229.105.<sup>16</sup> Item 105 requires disclosure of the risks to  
17 which reasonable investors would attach importance in making investment or voting decisions.  
18 Contrary to Item 105’s requirements, the Offering Materials failed to disclose the material risk that  
19 higher interest rates were already jeopardizing the bank’s future earnings, and worse, instead of  
20 mitigating such risks, SVB had exacerbated those risks by, inter alia, overconcentrating in long-  
21 duration investments to deliver short-term profits. Moreover, the Offering Materials failed to  
22 disclose the material risk that SVB’s executives had disregarded duration risks and internal  
23 assessments, including recommendations to purchase shorter-term bonds to hedge its balance sheet,  
24 which would have offset the material risk of losses from rising interest rates, and instead continued  
25 investing in long-term bonds to drive short-term profits. Additionally, the Offering Materials failed  
26 to disclose that Defendants ignored internal risk management alarms, had failed to reasonably

27  
28 <sup>16</sup> Before April 2, 2019, current Item 105 was Item 503(c).

1 address and comply with key risk metrics, and had altered assumptions underlying internal models  
2 that showed higher interest rates could devastate SVB's future earnings, using unreasonable and  
3 improper tweaks to those models to mask the undisclosed risks and facilitate SVB's short-term  
4 profit-driven strategy. The Offering Materials also failed to disclose the material risks from SVB  
5 lacking effective internal controls, having deficient risk management systems, its holding Company  
6 had been rated as deficient under the CAMELS (acronym for Capital adequacy, Assets, Management  
7 capability, Earnings, Liquidity, Sensitivity) rating system, regulators warning SVB that its risk  
8 management systems were inadequate and below the Federal Reserve's expectations, and that SVB  
9 was already facing many serious operational and technological problems, impairing the Company's  
10 ability to track risks, including interest rate risks, among other matters. Further still, the Offering  
11 Materials failed to disclose the material risks from SVB lacking a diversified customer base, being  
12 over-reliant on a small, highly concentrated group of large, uninsured depositors tied into the same,  
13 insular venture capital networks, and thus an overwhelmingly inordinate percentage of SVB deposits  
14 across that non-diversified customer base being particularly susceptible to the risk of a run on the  
15 bank. Moreover, the Offering Materials failed to disclose the material risks from SVB's liquidity  
16 being less than represented by Defendants and, in truth, inadequate in view of its customers' business  
17 and their collective deposits. Additionally, the Offering Materials failed to disclose the material  
18 risks from SVB largely *not* managing its interest rate risk in its fixed income securities portfolio—  
19 in fact, it faced enormous interest rate risk from that portfolio. And the Offering Materials failed to  
20 disclose the material risks from SVB making grossly inadequate use of derivatives or other hedging  
21 strategies, such as interest rate swaps, to mitigate interest rate risk. While the Offering Materials'  
22 discussion of risk factors listed market and liquidity risks in vague and generic terms, it did not even  
23 mention the actual material risks posed by the foregoing, much less adequately describe those risks  
24 as required by Item 105.

129. SEC Regulation S-K, Item 303, requires that management’s discussion and analysis (MD&A) “[i]dentify any known trends or any known demands, commitments, events or uncertainties that will result in or that are reasonably likely to result in the registrant’s liquidity increasing or decreasing in any material way” and “[d]escribe any known trends or uncertainties that

1 have had or that are reasonably likely to have a material favorable or unfavorable impact on net sales  
2 or revenues or income from continuing operations.” 17 C.F.R. § 229.303. Contrary to Item 303’s  
3 requirements, the Offering Materials failed to disclose the material market risks, including the  
4 interest rate risk, uninsured depositor risk and liquidity risk that SVB faced, and which resulted in,  
5 and were reasonably likely to result in, SVB’s liquidity materially decreasing and having a materially  
6 unfavorable impact on SVB’s revenues and income. As detailed herein, the Offering Materials failed  
7 to disclose that higher interest rates were already jeopardizing the bank’s future earnings, and worse,  
8 instead of mitigating such risks, SVB had exacerbated those risks by, *inter alia*, overconcentrating  
9 in long-duration investments to deliver short-term profits. Moreover, the Offering Materials failed  
10 to disclose that SVB’s executives had disregarded duration risks and internal assessments, including  
11 recommendations to purchase shorter-term bonds to hedge its balance sheet, which would have offset  
12 the material risk of losses from rising interest rates, and instead continued investing in long-term  
13 bonds to drive short-term profits. Additionally, the Offering Materials failed to disclose that  
14 Defendants ignored internal risk management alarms, had failed to reasonably address and comply  
15 with key risk metrics, and had altered assumptions underlying internal models that showed higher  
16 interest rates could devastate SVB’s future earnings, using unreasonable and improper tweaks to  
17 those models to mask the undisclosed risks and facilitate SVB’s short-term profit-driven strategy.  
18 The Offering Materials also failed to disclose that SVB lacked effective internal controls, had  
19 deficient risk management systems, its holding Company had been rated as deficient under the  
20 CAMELS (acronym for Capital adequacy, Assets, Management capability, Earnings, Liquidity,  
21 Sensitivity) rating system, regulators had warned SVB that its risk management systems were  
22 inadequate and below the Federal Reserve’s expectations, and SVB was already facing many serious  
23 operational and technological problems, impairing the Company’s ability to track risks, including  
24 interest rate risks, among other matters. Further still, the Offering Materials failed to disclose that  
25 SVB lacked a diversified customer base, was over-reliant on a small, highly concentrated group of  
26 large, uninsured depositors tied into the same, insular venture capital networks, and thus an  
27 overwhelmingly inordinate percentage of SVB deposits across that non-diversified customer base  
28 was particularly susceptible to the risk of a run on the bank. Moreover, the Offering Materials failed

1 to disclose that SVB's liquidity was less than represented by Defendants and, in truth, inadequate in  
2 view of its customers' business and their collective deposits. These undisclosed trends, events,  
3 uncertainties and their likely consequences, were known at the time and thus Item 303 required  
4 disclosure.

## 5 KPMG's Liability

### 6 Overview of Allegations Against KPMG

7 130. KPMG audited SVB's financial statements and its system of internal controls over  
8 financial reporting for the year ended December 31, 2020 ("FY2020"). KPMG also issued and  
9 signed audit opinions in which it certified that KPMG's internal controls were effective and that the  
10 Company's financial statements were free of material misstatements and fairly presented SVB's  
11 financial position.

12 131. The 2020 10-K includes as Item 8 a "Report of Independent Registered Public  
13 Accounting Firm," signed by KPMG. The KPMG Report states in relevant part:

#### 14 *Opinions on the Consolidated Financial Statements and Internal Control Over* 15 *Financial Reporting*

16 We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of SVB Financial  
17 Group and subsidiaries (the Company) as of December 31, 2020 and 2019, the  
18 related consolidated statements of income, comprehensive income, stockholders'  
19 equity, and cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended  
20 December 31, 2020, and the related notes (collectively, the consolidated financial  
21 statements). We also have audited the Company's internal control over financial  
22 reporting as of December 31, 2020, based on criteria established in *Internal Control*  
23 *– Integrated Framework (2013)* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring  
24 Organizations of the Treadway Commission.

25 In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present  
26 fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Company as of  
27 December 31, 2020 and 2019, and the results of its operations and its cash flows  
28 for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2020, in  
conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. **Also in our  
opinion, the Company maintained, in all material respects, effective internal  
control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2020 based on criteria  
established in *Internal Control – Integrated Framework (2013)* issued by the  
Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission.**

(bolding added; italics in original).

1 132. KPMG consented to the incorporation by reference of its above-described report  
2 concerning the effectiveness of SVB's internal controls into the Offering Materials. Specifically, the  
3 Offering Materials included as an exhibit a "Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting  
4 Firm" that provides in relevant part:

5 We consent to the use of our report dated March 1, 2021, with respect to the  
6 consolidated balance sheets of SVB Financial Group as of December 31, 2020 and  
7 2019, the related consolidated statements of income, comprehensive income,  
8 stockholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period  
9 ended December 31, 2020, and the related notes, and the effectiveness of internal  
control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2020, incorporated herein by  
reference and to the reference to our firm under the heading "Experts" in this  
prospectus.

10 133. KPMG's unqualified opinions on SVB's financial statements, incorporated by  
11 reference into the Offering Materials, were materially false and misleading. Contrary to its  
12 representations, KPMG's audits of those financial statements were not conducted in accordance with  
13 Generally Accepted Auditing Standards ("GAAS") or Public Company Accounting Oversight Board  
14 ("PCAOB") standards, and SVB's financial condition and results of operations were not presented  
15 in conformity with GAAP. These representations were materially false and misleading because, as  
16 set forth above, SVB's financial statements for FY2020 did not present fairly, in all material respects  
17 the Company's results of operations or its financial condition in accordance with GAAP. Further,  
18 in certifying SVB's financial statements and internal controls, KPMG specifically represented (based  
19 on its GAAS audit) that the Company maintained effective internal controls over financial reporting  
20 as of December 31, 2020. In other words, KPMG's certification represented to investors that it  
21 purportedly conducted an audit in compliance with GAAS, and that the audit included a factual basis  
22 to conclude that SVB had effective internal controls. In truth, however, in violation of GAAS, KPMG  
23 disregarded the numerous, significant internal control deficiencies. Contrary to its statements,  
24 KPMG's audit did not constitute a reasonable investigation of whether the Company's  
25 management's assessment of internal controls was properly and accurately presented. Alternatively,  
26 to the extent KPMG's statements that it conducted its audit in accordance with GAAS are deemed  
27 statements of opinion or belief, those statements were false and misleading, lacked a reasonable  
28



1 basis, or did not rest on a meaningful inquiry. Further, KPMG omitted to inform investors that its  
2 audit did not show a sufficient factual basis to conclude that SVB had effective internal controls.

3 134. In issuing unqualified audit opinions and consenting to their incorporation in SVB's  
4 SEC filings, KPMG made false and misleading statements in violation of Section 11 of the Securities  
5 Act.

6 **Overview of GAAS**

7 135. As SVB's external auditor, KPMG was required to audit the Company's financial  
8 statements and the effectiveness of SVB's internal controls over financial reporting in accordance  
9 with GAAS.

10 136. The PCAOB, established by the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, is responsible for the  
11 development of auditing and related professional practice standards that are required to be followed  
12 by registered public accounting firms. On April 16, 2003, the PCAOB adopted as its interim  
13 standards GAAS as described by the AICPA Auditing Standards Board's SAS No. 95, Generally  
14 Accepted Auditing Standards, and related interpretations in existence on that date. Accordingly, an  
15 auditor's reference to "the standards of the Public Accounting Oversight Board (United States)"  
16 includes a reference to GAAS in existence as of April 16, 2003. For simplicity, all references to  
17 GAAS hereinafter include the standards of the PCAOB. The standards adopted by PCAOB that also  
18 have been approved by the SEC are designated with the prefix "AS." Preexisting interim standards  
19 that have been adopted by the PCAOB are designated by the prefix "AU."

20 137. GAAS is comprised of ten standards that establish the quality of an auditor's  
21 performance and the overall objectives to be achieved in a financial statement audit. Auditors are  
22 required to follow those standards in each and every audit they conduct.

23 138. The GAAS standards fall into three categories: General Standards; Fieldwork  
24 Standards; and Reporting Standards. The General Standards require, among other things, that the  
25 auditor exercise professional skepticism. The General Standards provide guidance to an auditor on  
26 the exercise of due professional care in the performance of the audit. The Field Work Standards  
27 require, among other things, that an auditor obtain a sufficient understanding of the entity's business  
28 and operating environment to properly plan an audit in accordance with GAAS. Finally, the

1 Reporting Standards require that an auditor express an opinion on the financial statements of a  
2 company taken as a whole, or an assertion to the extent that an opinion cannot be expressed.

3 139. An audit is a risk-based process during which the auditor should exercise due care.  
4 An auditor should be always aware of the risk of misstatements due to fraud or error. As those risks  
5 increase or materialize, auditors are obligated by GAAS and PCAOB standards to alter their audit  
6 procedures accordingly. KPMG failed to recognize glaring risks, and consequently, failed to adjust  
7 its audit procedures, leading to an unqualified audit report that was materially false and misleading.

8 140. KPMG violated GAAS Standard of Reporting No. 1, which requires the audit report  
9 to state whether the financial statements are presented in accordance with GAAP. KPMG's audit  
10 opinion inaccurately represented that SVB's FY2020 Financial Statements were presented in  
11 conformity with GAAP when, as alleged herein, they were not.

12 141. KPMG failed to exercise sufficient professional care in its audits of SVB's financial  
13 statements, and thus violated GAAS General Standard No. 3, which requires due professional care  
14 to be exercised in the performance of the audit and the preparation of the report. AU § 150.02.  
15 KPMG violated General Standard No. 3 by, among other things, disregarding SVB's internal control  
16 deficiencies detailed herein. KPMG also failed to exercise sufficient professional care in its audits  
17 of SVB's financial statements, and thus violated AU § 230, Due Professional Care in the  
18 Performance of Work, which states that "[d]ue professional care imposes a responsibility upon each  
19 professional within an independent auditor's organization to observe the standards of field work and  
20 reporting." AU § 230.02. The duty to exercise due care required KPMG to obtain reasonable  
21 assurances that the financial statements were free from material misstatement, whether caused by  
22 error or fraud. AU § 230.10. KPMG did not obtain such assurances. As detailed above, due to the  
23 presence of multiple red flags, KPMG knew or should have known that there was a strong possibility  
24 of material misstatements in connection with SVB's financial statements for the FY2020 and the  
25 representation that SVB's internal controls were effective.

26 142. KPMG should have been aware that there was a heightened risk associated with the  
27 market risks, including the interest rate risk, uninsured depositor risk and liquidity risk, that SVB  
28 faced. That heightened risk obligated KPMG to perform more stringent and rigorous audit



1 procedures compared to those it otherwise performed. For example paragraphs 6 and 9 of AS No.  
2 13, The Auditor's Responses to the Risk of Material Misstatements, state the following:

3 The auditor also should determine whether it is necessary to make pervasive changes  
4 to the nature, timing, or extent of audit procedures to adequately address the assessed  
5 risks of material misstatement. Examples of such pervasive changes include  
6 modifying the audit strategy to: (a) increase the substantive testing of the valuation of  
7 numerous significant accounts at year end because of significantly deteriorating  
8 market conditions, and (b) obtain more persuasive audit evidence from substantive  
9 procedures due to the identification of pervasive weaknesses in the company's control  
10 environment.

11 \* \* \*

12 In designing the audit procedures to be performed, the auditor should . . . obtain more  
13 persuasive audit evidence the higher the auditor's assessment of risk.

14 143. AS No. 13.14 provides specific examples of how KPMG should have modified its  
15 audit procedures to address its assessed risks. In that regard, KPMG should have:

- 16 (a) Chang[ed] the nature of audit procedures to obtain evidence that is more reliable  
17 or to obtain additional corroborative information;  
18 (b) Chang[ed] the timing of audit procedures to be closer to the end of the period or to  
19 the points during the period in which fraudulent transactions are more likely to occur;  
20 and  
21 (c) Chang[ed] the extent of the procedures applied to obtain more evidence, *e.g.*, by  
22 increasing sample sizes or applying computer-assisted audit techniques to all of the  
23 items in an account.

24 144. In failing to modify its audit procedures, KPMG failed to comply with AS No. 13.  
25 Had KPMG appropriately modified its audit procedures to be responsive to the risk of material  
26 misstatements, including of the Company's financial statements or its internal controls, and carried  
27 out those procedures with the appropriate degree of professional skepticism, it would have  
28 discovered that the Company's financial statements failed to account for material market risks,  
including interest rate risk, uninsured depositor risk and liquidity risk, and that the Company's  
internal controls were ineffective.

145. KPMG also failed to obtain sufficient appropriate evidentiary matter regarding the  
market risks that SVB faced, such as interest rate risk, uninsured depositor risk and liquidity risk, as  
well as the effectiveness or ineffectiveness of SVB's internal controls. KPMG also did not comply  
with PCAOB auditing standards. For example, KPMG violated GAAS Standard of Fieldwork Nos.  
2 and 3, which require an independent auditor to obtain, through inspection, observation, inquiries

1 and confirmations, competent, sufficient appropriate evidentiary matter to afford a reasonable basis  
2 for: (1) the opinion regarding the financial statements and (2) the opinion regarding internal control  
3 over financial reporting. KPMG likewise violated AS No. 15: Audit Evidence, which provides that  
4 an auditor has a reasonable basis for issuing an audit opinion when the auditor has planned and  
5 performed audit procedures in a manner that enables the auditor to obtain “sufficient appropriate  
6 audit evidence.” AS No. 5 defines sufficiency as “the measure of the quantity of audit evidence” and  
7 appropriateness as “the measure of the quality of audit evidence.” AS No. 15 also states that “as the  
8 risk increases, the amount of evidence that the auditor should obtain also increases. . . . [O]rdinarily  
9 more evidence is needed to respond to significant risks.” Despite ample indicators of increased  
10 market risks, including interest rate risk, uninsured depositor risk and liquidity risk, as well as glaring  
11 indicators of the ineffectiveness of SVB’s internal controls, KPMG failed to obtain more evidence  
12 than it typically would in the absence of increased risk. In addition, AS No. 14, Evaluating Audit  
13 Results, provides that when evaluating whether the financial statements as a whole are free of  
14 material misstatement, the auditor should evaluate the qualitative aspects of the company’s  
15 accounting practices, including potential bias in management’s judgments about the amounts and  
16 disclosures in the financial statements.

17 146. KPMG also violated GAAS Standards of Reporting Nos. 1 and 4<sup>17</sup> by falsely  
18 representing that SVB’s financial statements were presented in conformity with GAAP when they  
19 were not and by improperly providing unqualified opinions on SVB’s financial statements for  
20 FY202, even though its audits were not conducted in accordance with PCAOB auditing standards  
21 and the financial statements were not prepared in accordance with GAAP. As a result of KPMG’s  
22 violations of GAAS set forth above, it also violated Standard of Reporting Nos. 1 and 4 because  
23 KPMG had an insufficient basis to express an unqualified opinion on its FY2020 audit of SVB.

24 147. Had KPMG performed its audit in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB, it  
25 would have recognized that SVB’s FY2020 financial statements were not presented in conformity  
26

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27 <sup>17</sup> Standard of Reporting No. 4 requires an auditor to express an opinion on the financial statements  
28 of a company taken as a whole, or to state that an opinion cannot be expressed. AU § 150.02.

1 with GAAP and could not be relied upon. In other words, KPMG failed to obtain sufficient  
2 appropriate audit evidence as required by applicable auditing standards.

3 148. Under AS No. 5, KPMG was required to complete a careful examination regarding  
4 SVB's effective controls over financial reporting. PCAOB's rulemaking in connection with AS No.  
5 5 makes clear that KPMG could not simply rely on the assessment of internal controls reached and  
6 communicated to it by SVB's management or third parties but was instead required to conduct its  
7 own independent assessment of internal controls before it could issue a "clean" opinion. According  
8 to AS No. 5: "The auditor is required to provide an independent opinion on the effectiveness of the  
9 company's internal control over financial reporting. . . . The auditor cannot obtain sufficient evidence  
10 to support an opinion on the effectiveness of internal controls based solely on observation of or  
11 interaction with the company's controls. Rather, the auditor needs to perform procedures such as  
12 inquiry, observation, and inspection of documents, or walkthroughs, which consist of a combination  
13 of these procedures, in order to fully understand and identify the likely sources of potential  
14 misstatements[.]" After performing an independent analysis, an independent auditor is not permitted  
15 to issue a clean opinion if any "material weaknesses" exist.

16 149. KPMG's public statements that its audits were conducted in accordance with GAAS  
17 were materially false and misleading. Further, KPMG's certifications and representations were false  
18 and misleading. The above-described misrepresentations and omissions, SVB's failure to adequately  
19 manage interest rate risk, and its attendant collapse demonstrate significant deficiencies in SVB's  
20 internal controls. In his prepared Senate testimony, Michael S. Barr, the Vice Chair for Supervision  
21 of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, attributed SVB's failure to "inadequate  
22 risk management and internal controls that struggled to keep pace with the growth of the bank."  
23 These risk management and internal control failures prompted six "supervisory findings" in late  
24 2021 which included the MRAs and MRIAs described at ¶¶ 108-111, above.

25 **DEFENDANTS' MISSTATEMENTS AND OMISSIONS WERE MATERIAL**

26 150. With the foregoing misrepresentations and omissions in the Offering Materials,  
27 Defendants were able to complete the Merger. But as the truth of Defendants' misrepresentations  
28 and omissions became clear, the price of SVB shares plunged, and the stock ultimately lost all value.

1 151. In April 2022, SVB terminated its Chief Risk Officer Laura Izurieta, paying her  
2 severance of over \$7.1 million. SVB did not fill the position of Chief Risk Officer until Kim Olson  
3 “succeeded to the role of Chief Risk Officer on December 27, 2022.”

4 152. Throughout 2022, and continuing in the first three months of 2023, as interest rates  
5 rose, depositors withdrew substantial funds from SVB, exhausting the cash that the Company kept  
6 on hand to handle day-to-day deposits and withdrawals. Deposits fell from \$198 billion at the end of  
7 March 2022 to \$173 billion at the end of 2022 and to \$165 billion at the end of February 2023.

8 153. Much of the rest of the Company’s funds were tied up in long-term HTM securities.  
9 Many of those investments were purchased when the Company’s deposits skyrocketed in 2020 and  
10 2021 and thus would not mature—and return the principal invested in them—until several years in  
11 the future.

12 154. To raise cash, SVB decided to sell AFS securities. According to SVB’s 2022  
13 disclosure on Form 10-K, as of December 31, 2022, SVB held roughly \$26 billion in AFS securities.  
14 By March 8, 2023, the Company had sold substantially all of these securities. Due to the rise in  
15 interest rates, however, SVB sold these securities at a \$1.8 billion loss.

16 155. According to Axios, early in the week of February 27, 2023, SVB was informed that  
17 the credit rating agency Moody’s was considering a double downgrade of SVB’s debt. SVB asked  
18 Moody’s to postpone the downgrade, and Moody’s agreed.

19 156. By the middle of the week, SVB was speaking with Goldman Sachs and private equity  
20 firms about raising capital. The next week, in early March 2023, SVB decided to sell \$2.25 billion  
21 in shares to raise revenue, including \$500 million to private equity firm General Atlantic.

22 157. On March 8, 2023, Moody’s downgraded SVB’s debt. On the same day, SVB  
23 announced its \$1.8 billion loss and its plan to sell \$2.25 billion in shares to raise revenue (though the  
24 Company had not found investors to purchase all the shares it intended to sell).

25 158. SVB stated in a March 8 letter to investors:

26 The sale of substantially all of our AFS securities will enable us to increase  
27 our asset sensitivity, particularly lock in funding costs, better insulate net  
28 interest income (NII) and net interest margin (NIM) from the impact of  
higher interest rates, and enhance profitability.

1 . . .

2 While ***we will realize a one-time, post tax earnings loss of approximately***  
3 ***\$1.8 billion*** in connection with the sale, we expect the reinvestment of the  
4 proceeds to be immediately accretive to net interest income (NII) and net  
5 interest margin (NIM), resulting in a short payback period of  
6 approximately three years.

7 (emphasis added).

8 159. The market immediately reacted, with the price of SVB's shares dropping more than  
9 60% the next day.

10 160. On March 9, 2023, Peter Thiel's Founders Fund, which invests in and advises many  
11 startups and is closely watched by other market participants, began advising startups to withdraw  
12 their money from SVB.

13 161. Depositors, including from SVB's startup-heavy depositor base, began to rapidly  
14 withdraw their deposits, a sequence of events partially driven by the fact that the bulk of SVB's  
15 startup-heavy deposit base was not FDIC insured. By the end of 2022, over 95% of the value of the  
16 deposits at SVB was not backed by FDIC insurance.

17 162. Because the great majority of deposits at SVB were not FDIC insured, when news of  
18 trouble at SVB began to spread, depositors feared that they might lose their deposited funds. These  
19 fears sparked a bank run. On March 9, 2023, depositors attempted to withdraw \$42 billion from their  
20 accounts at Silicon Valley Bank.

21 163. On March 10, 2023, the California Department of Financial Protection and  
22 Innovation took possession of Silicon Valley Bank, ordered that it be liquidated, and named the  
23 FDIC as the receiver. On March 13, 2023, the FDIC transferred all deposits to a new FDIC-operated  
24 bank, Silicon Valley Bridge Bank, N.A.

25 164. On March 17, 2023, SVB announced it had filed for bankruptcy. Its stock has since  
26 lost substantially all of its value.

27 165. Thus, while depositors are being made whole, SVB stockholders have been wiped  
28 out. They have received nothing, and their shares are now virtually worthless.

1 **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

2 166. Plaintiff brings this action as a class action on behalf of all persons who acquired SVB  
3 common stock in her Merger exchange pursuant to the Offering Materials (the "Class"). Excluded  
4 from the Class are Defendants and their families, the officers and directors and affiliates of  
5 Defendants, at all relevant times, members of their immediate families and their legal  
6 representatives, heirs, successors or assigns and any entity in which defendants have or had a  
7 controlling interest.

8 167. The members of the Class are so numerous that joinder of all members is  
9 impracticable. While the exact number of Class members is unknown to Plaintiff at this time and  
10 can only be ascertained through appropriate discovery, Plaintiff believes that there are at least  
11 hundreds of members in the proposed Class. Members of the Class may be identified from records  
12 maintained by SVB or its transfer agent and may be notified of the pendency of this action by mail,  
13 using the form of notice similar to that customarily used in securities class actions.

14 168. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the members of the Class, as all members  
15 of the Class are similarly affected by Defendants' wrongful conduct in violation of law that is  
16 complained of herein.

17 169. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the members of the Class  
18 and has retained counsel competent and experienced in class and securities litigation.

19 170. Common questions of law and fact exist as to all members of the Class and  
20 predominate over any questions solely affecting individual members of the Class. Among the  
21 questions of law and fact common to the Class are:

22 (a) whether Defendants violated the Securities Act;

23 (b) whether the Offering Materials were negligently prepared and contained  
24 inaccurate statements of material fact and omitted material information required to be stated therein;  
25 and

26 (c) to what extent the members of the Class have sustained damages and the  
27 proper measure of damages.

1 171. A class action is superior to all other available methods for the fair and efficient  
2 adjudication of this controversy since joinder of all members is impracticable. Furthermore, as the  
3 damages suffered by individual Class members may be relatively small, the expense and burden of  
4 individual litigation make it impossible for members of the Class to individually redress the wrongs  
5 done to them. There will be no difficulty in the management of this action as a class action.

6 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

7 **For Violation of § 11 of the Securities Act**  
8 **Against All Defendants**

9 172. Plaintiff incorporates all the foregoing by reference.

10 173. This Cause of Action is brought pursuant to § 11 of the Securities Act, 15 U.S.C.  
11 § 77k, on behalf of the Class, against all Defendants.

12 174. This Count alleges and sounds in strict liability. This Count expressly excludes and  
13 disclaims any allegation that could be construed as alleging fraud or scienter, as this Count is solely  
14 based on claims of strict liability and/or negligence under the Securities Act.

15 175. The Offering Materials contained untrue statements of material facts, omitted to state  
16 other facts necessary to make the statements made not misleading, and omitted to state material facts  
17 required to be stated therein.

18 176. Defendants are strictly liable to Plaintiff and the Class for the misstatements and  
19 omissions.

20 177. The Individual Defendants each signed or were named as Directors in the Offering  
21 Materials. As such, each is strictly liable for the material misrepresentations in the Offering Materials  
22 and the failure of the Offering Materials to be complete and accurate. Each Individual Defendant  
23 had a duty to make a reasonable and diligent investigation of the truthfulness and accuracy of the  
24 statements contained in the Offering Materials and ensure that the representations in the Offering  
25 Materials were true and accurate, that there were no omissions of material facts that would render  
26 the Offering Materials misleading, and that the Offering Materials contained all facts required to be  
27 stated therein. In the exercise of reasonable care, the Individual Defendants should have known of  
28 the material misrepresentations and omissions contained in the Offering Materials and should have



1 known of the omissions of material facts necessary to make the statements made therein not  
2 misleading or otherwise required to be stated therein. Accordingly, the Individual Defendants are  
3 liable to Plaintiff and the Class under Section 11 for the material misrepresentations and omissions  
4 in the Offering Materials, and the failure of the Offering Materials to be complete and accurate.

5 178. Defendant KPMG consented to the incorporation of its audit report in the Offering  
6 Materials. KPMG did not conduct a reasonable audit of SVB in compliance with GAAS and did not  
7 have reasonable ground to state that KPMG's audit report included or incorporated by reference in  
8 the Offering Materials was true and that there was no omission to state a material fact required to be  
9 stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein not misleading.

10 179. None of the Defendants named herein made a reasonable investigation or possessed  
11 reasonable grounds for the belief that the statements contained in the Offering Materials were true  
12 and without omissions of any material facts and were not misleading.

13 180. Defendant Eric A. Benhamou served on SVB's Board within the scope of his  
14 employment as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Defendant Benhamou Global Ventures,  
15 LLC, signed the Registration Statement at the direction of Defendant Benhamou Global Ventures,  
16 LLC. Defendant Allison Davis served on SVB's within the scope of her employment as Co-Founder  
17 and Managing Partner of Defendant Fifth Era, signed the Registration Statement at the direction of  
18 Defendant Fifth Era. Defendant Kate D. Mitchell served on SVB's within the scope of her  
19 employment as a Partner and Co-Founder of Defendant Scale Venture Partners, signed the  
20 Registration Statement at the direction of Defendant Scale Venture Partners. The Venture Capital  
21 Defendants are thus strictly liable under *respondeat superior* for the materially inaccurate statements  
22 contained in the Registration Statement and the failure of the Registration Statement to be complete  
23 and accurate, unless the Venture Capital Defendants carry the burden of establishing an affirmative  
24 "due diligence" defense. The Venture Capital Defendants had a duty to make a reasonable and  
25 diligent investigation of the truthfulness and accuracy of the statements contained in the Registration  
26 Statement and ensure that they were true and accurate, there were no omissions of material facts that  
27 would make the Registration Statement misleading, and the document contained all facts required to  
28 be stated therein. In the exercise of reasonable care, the Venture Capital Defendants should have



1 known of the material misstatements and omissions contained in the Registration Statement and also  
2 should have known of the omissions of material facts necessary to make the statements made therein  
3 not misleading. Accordingly, the Venture Capital Defendants are liable to Plaintiffs and the Class.

4 181. By reason of the conduct herein alleged, each Defendant violated, or controlled an  
5 employee or other person who violated, § 11 of the Securities Act.

6 182. Plaintiff acquired SVB shares pursuant to the Offering Materials.

7 183. Plaintiff and the Class have sustained damage. The value of SVB common stock has  
8 declined substantially subsequent to and due to defendants' violations.

9 184. At the time of their acquisition of SVB shares, Plaintiff and the other members of the  
10 Class were without knowledge of the facts concerning the wrongful conduct alleged herein and could  
11 not have reasonably discovered those facts prior to the disclosures herein. Less than one year has  
12 elapsed from the time that Plaintiff discovered or reasonably could have discovered the facts upon  
13 which this Complaint is based to the time that Plaintiff commenced this action. Less than three years  
14 has elapsed between the time that the securities upon which this Cause of Action is brought were  
15 offered to the public and the time Plaintiff commenced this action.

16 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

17 **For Violation of § 12(a)(2) of the Securities Act**  
18 **All Defendants Except KPMG**

19 185. Plaintiff incorporates all the foregoing by reference.

20 186. This Count is brought pursuant to § 12(a)(2) of the Securities Act, 15 U.S.C. §  
21 77l(a)(2), on behalf of the Class against the Individual Defendants.

22 187. This Count alleges and sounds in strict liability. This Count expressly excludes and  
23 disclaims any allegation that could be construed as alleging fraud or scienter, as this Count is solely  
24 based on claims of strict liability and/or negligence under the Securities Act.

25 188. The prospectus contained untrue statements of material fact, and concealed and failed  
26 to disclose material facts, as detailed above. Defendants owed Plaintiff and the other members of  
27 the Class who purchased SVB shares pursuant to the prospectus the duty to make a reasonable and  
28 diligent investigation of the statements contained in the Prospectuses to ensure that such statements

1 were true and that there was no failure to state a material fact required to be stated in order to make  
2 the statements contained therein not misleading. Defendants, in the exercise of reasonable care,  
3 should have known of the misstatements and omissions contained in the prospectus as set forth  
4 above.

5 189. Defendant Eric A. Benhamou served on SVB's Board within the scope of his  
6 employment as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Defendant Benhamou Global Ventures,  
7 LLC, signed the Offering Materials at the direction of Defendant Benhamou Global Ventures, LLC.  
8 Defendant Allison Davis served on SVB's within the scope of her employment as Co-Founder and  
9 Managing Partner of Defendant Fifth Era, signed the Offering Materials at the direction of Defendant  
10 Fifth Era. Defendant Kate D. Mitchell served on SVB's within the scope of her employment as a  
11 Partner and Co-Founder of Defendant Scale Venture Partners, signed the Offering Materials at the  
12 direction of Defendant Scale Venture Partners. The Venture Capital Defendants are thus strictly  
13 liable under *respondeat superior* for the materially inaccurate statements contained in the Offering  
14 Materials and the failure of the Offering Materials to be complete and accurate, unless the Venture  
15 Capital Defendants carry the burden of establishing an affirmative "due diligence" defense. The  
16 Venture Capital Defendants had a duty to make a reasonable and diligent investigation of the  
17 truthfulness and accuracy of the statements contained in the Offering Materials and ensure that they  
18 were true and accurate, there were no omissions of material facts that would make the Offering  
19 Materials misleading, and the document contained all facts required to be stated therein. In the  
20 exercise of reasonable care, the Venture Capital Defendants should have known of the material  
21 misstatements and omissions contained in the Offering Materials and also should have known of the  
22 omissions of material facts necessary to make the statements made therein not misleading.  
23 Accordingly, the Venture Capital Defendants are liable to Plaintiffs and the Class.

24 190. By means of the prospectus, Defendants promoted, solicited, and sold SVB shares to  
25 Plaintiff and Class members. Defendants were sellers to and direct solicitors of purchasers of the  
26 Company's securities offered pursuant to the offering. Defendants issued, caused to be issued, or  
27 signed or authorized the signing of the prospectus in connection with the offering, and used it to  
28

1 directly induce investors, including Plaintiffs and the other Class members, to purchase the  
2 Company's shares.

3 191. Plaintiff did not know, nor in the exercise of reasonable diligence could have known,  
4 of the untruths and omissions contained in the prospectus at the time Plaintiff acquired SVB shares.

5 192. By reason of the conduct alleged herein, the Individual Defendants violated  
6 § 12(a)(2) of the Securities Act. As a direct and proximate result of such violations, Plaintiff and the  
7 other members of the Class, who purchased SVB shares pursuant to the prospectus, sustained  
8 substantial damages in connection with their purchases of the stock. Accordingly, Plaintiff and the  
9 other members of the Class who hold the common stock issued pursuant to the Prospectus have the  
10 right to rescind and recover the consideration paid for their shares, and hereby tender their common  
11 stock to Defendants sued herein. Class members who have sold their common stock seek damages  
12 to the extent permitted by law.

13 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

14 **For Violation of § 15 of the Securities Act**  
15 **All Defendants Except KPMG**

16 193. Plaintiff incorporates all the foregoing by reference.

17 194. This Cause of Action is brought pursuant to § 15 of the Securities Act against the  
18 Individual Defendants.

19 195. The Individual Defendants were controlling persons of SVB by virtue of their  
20 positions as directors or senior officers of SVB. The Individual Defendants each had a series of  
21 direct or indirect business or personal relationships with other directors or officers or major  
22 shareholders of SVB. The Venture Capital Defendants controlled their respective employee  
23 directors: Benhamou Global Ventures exercised control over Defendant Eric A. Benhamou, who,  
24 within the scope of his employment for Benhamou Global Ventures reviewed, contributed to, signed,  
25 or agreed to be named as a director of SVB in the Offering Materials; Fifth Era exercised control  
26 over Defendant Allison Davis, who, within the scope of her employment for Fifth Era reviewed,  
27 contributed to, signed, or agreed to be named as a director of SVB in the Offering Materials; and  
28 Scale Venture Partners exercised control over Defendant Kate D. Mitchell, who, within the scope of

1 her employment for Scale Venture Partners reviewed, contributed to, signed, or agreed to be named  
2 as a director of SVB in the Offering Materials.

3 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

4 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for relief and judgment, as follows:

5 A. Certifying this class action, appointing Plaintiffs as Class representatives, and  
6 appointing Plaintiff's counsel as Class Counsel;

7 B. Awarding damages in favor of Plaintiff and the Class against all Defendants,  
8 jointly and severally, in an amount to be proven at trial, including interest thereon;

9 C. Awarding Plaintiff and the Class their reasonable costs and expenses incurred  
10 in this action, including counsel fees and expert fees;

11 D. Awarding rescission, disgorgement, or such other equitable or injunctive relief  
12 as deemed appropriate by the Court.

13 **JURY DEMAND**

14 Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury.

15 DATED: April 14, 2023

16 Respectfully submitted,

17 

18  
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**Exhibit D**

**Proof of Claim**

Fill in this information to identify the case (Select only one Debtor per claim form):

Debtor: SVB Financial Group

Case Number: 23-10367

## Modified Form 410 Proof of Claim

04/22

Read the instructions before filling out this form. This form is for making a claim for payment in a bankruptcy case. Do not use this form to make a request for payment of an administrative expense (other than a claim entitled to priority under 11 U.S.C. § 503(b)(9)). Make such a request according to 11 U.S.C. § 503.

Filers must leave out or redact information that is entitled to privacy on this form or on any attached documents. Attach redacted copies of any documents that support the claim, such as promissory notes, purchase orders, invoices, itemized statements of running accounts, contracts, judgments, mortgages, and security agreements. Do not send original documents; they may be destroyed after scanning. If the documents are not available, explain in an attachment.

A person who files a fraudulent claim could be fined up to \$500,000, imprisoned for up to 5 years, or both. 18 U.S.C. §§ 152, 157, and 3571.

Fill in all the information about the claim as of the date the case was filed. That date is on the notice of bankruptcy (Form 309) that you received.

### Part 1: Identify the Claim

1. Who is the current creditor?

Name of the current creditor (the person or entity to be paid for this claim) \_\_\_\_\_

Other names the creditor used with the debtor \_\_\_\_\_

2. Has this claim been acquired from someone else?

☐ No

☐ Yes. From whom? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Where should notices and payments to the creditor be sent?

Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure (FRBP) 2002(g)

Where should notices to the creditor be sent?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number \_\_\_\_\_ Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

Contact phone \_\_\_\_\_

Contact email \_\_\_\_\_

Where should payments to the creditor be sent? (if different)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number \_\_\_\_\_ Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

Contact phone \_\_\_\_\_

Contact email \_\_\_\_\_

4. Does this claim amend one already filed?

☐ No

☐ Yes. Claim number on court claims registry (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

Filed on \_\_\_\_\_  
MM / DD / YYYY

5. Do you know if anyone else has filed a proof of claim for this claim?

☐ No

☐ Yes. Who made the earlier filing? \_\_\_\_\_

**Part 2:** Give Information About the Claim as of the Date the Case Was Filed

6. **Do you have any number you use to identify the debtor?** ☐ No  
☐ Yes. Last 4 digits of the debtor's account or any number you use to identify the debtor: \_\_\_\_\_

7. **How much is the claim?** \$ See attachment. **Does this amount include interest or other charges?**  
☐ No  
☐ Yes. Attach statement itemizing interest, fees, expenses, or other charges required by Bankruptcy Rule 3001(c)(2)(A).

8. **What is the basis of the claim?** Examples: Goods sold, money loaned, lease, services performed, personal injury or wrongful death, or credit card.  
Attach redacted copies of any documents supporting the claim required by Bankruptcy Rule 3001(c).  
Limit disclosing information that is entitled to privacy, such as health care information.

9. **Is all or part of the claim secured?** ☐ No  
☐ Yes. The claim is secured by a lien on property.

**Nature of property:**  
☐ Real estate. If the claim is secured by the debtor's principal residence, file a *Mortgage Proof of Claim Attachment* (Official Form 410-A) with this *Proof of Claim*.  
☐ Motor vehicle  
☐ Other. Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

**Basis for perfection:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Attach redacted copies of documents, if any, that show evidence of perfection of a security interest (for example, a mortgage, lien, certificate of title, financing statement, or other document that shows the lien has been filed or recorded.)

**Value of property:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount of the claim that is secured:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount of the claim that is unsecured:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (The sum of the secured and unsecured amounts should match the amount in line 7.)

**Amount necessary to cure any default as of the date of the petition:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Annual Interest Rate** (when case was filed) \_\_\_\_\_ %  
☐ Fixed  
☐ Variable

10. **Is this claim based on a lease?** ☐ No  
☐ Yes. **Amount necessary to cure any default as of the date of the petition.** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

11. **Is this claim subject to a right of setoff?** ☐ No  
☐ Yes. Identify the property: \_\_\_\_\_



12. Is all or part of the claim entitled to priority under 11 U.S.C. § 507(a)?

☐ No

☐ Yes. Check one:

☐ Domestic support obligations (including alimony and child support) under 11 U.S.C. § 507(a)(1)(A) or (a)(1)(B).

☐ Up to \$3,350\* of deposits toward purchase, lease, or rental of property or services for personal, family, or household use. 11 U.S.C. § 507(a)(7).

☐ Wages, salaries, or commissions (up to \$15,150\*) earned within 180 days before the bankruptcy petition is filed or the debtor's business ends, whichever is earlier. 11 U.S.C. § 507(a)(4).

☐ Taxes or penalties owed to governmental units. 11 U.S.C. § 507(a)(8).

☐ Contributions to an employee benefit plan. 11 U.S.C. § 507(a)(5).

☐ Other. Specify subsection of 11 U.S.C. § 507(a)( ) that applies.

Amount entitled to priority

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

\* Amounts are subject to adjustment on 4/01/25 and every 3 years after that for cases begun on or after the date of adjustment.

13. Is all or part of the claim entitled to administrative priority pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 503(b)(9)?

☐ No

☐ Yes. Indicate the amount of your claim arising from the value of any goods received by the Debtor within 20 days before the date of commencement of the above case, in which the goods have been sold to the Debtor in the ordinary course of such Debtor's business. Attach documentation supporting such claim.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Part 3: Sign Below

The person completing this proof of claim must sign and date it. FRBP 9011(b).

If you file this claim electronically, FRBP 5005(a)(2) authorizes courts to establish local rules specifying what a signature is.

A person who files a fraudulent claim could be fined up to \$500,000, imprisoned for up to 5 years, or both. 18 U.S.C. §§ 152, 157, and 3571.

Check the appropriate box:

☐ I am the creditor.

☐ I am the creditor's attorney or authorized agent.

☐ I am the trustee, or the debtor, or their authorized agent. Bankruptcy Rule 3004.

☐ I am a guarantor, surety, endorser, or other codebtor. Bankruptcy Rule 3005.

I understand that an authorized signature on this *Proof of Claim* serves as an acknowledgment that when calculating the amount of the claim, the creditor gave the debtor credit for any payments received toward the debt.

I have examined the information in this *Proof of Claim* and have a reasonable belief that the information is true and correct.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on date \_\_\_\_\_  
MM / DD / YYYY

Signature

Name of the person who is completing and signing this claim:

Name

First name

Middle name

Last name

Title

Company

Identify the corporate servicer as the company if the authorized agent is a servicer.

Address

Number

Street

City

State

ZIP Code

Contact phone

Email

# Instructions for Proof of Claim

United States Bankruptcy Court

12/15

These instructions and definitions generally explain the law. In certain circumstances, such as bankruptcy cases that debtors do not file voluntarily, exceptions to these general rules may apply. You should consider obtaining the advice of an attorney, especially if you are unfamiliar with the bankruptcy process and privacy regulations.

A person who files a fraudulent claim could be fined up to \$500,000, imprisoned for up to 5 years, or both. 18 U.S.C. §§ 152, 157 and 3571.

## How to fill out this form

- **Fill in all of the information about the claim as of the date the case was filed.**
- **Fill in the caption at the top of the form.**
- **If the claim has been acquired from someone else, then state the identity of the last party** who owned the claim or was the holder of the claim and who transferred it to you before the initial claim was filed.
- **Attach any supporting documents to this form.**  
Attach redacted copies of any documents that show that the debt exists, a lien secures the debt, or both. (See the definition of *redaction* on the next page.)  
  
Also attach redacted copies of any documents that show perfection of any security interest or any assignments or transfers of the debt. In addition to the documents, a summary may be added. Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure (called “Bankruptcy Rule”) 3001(c) and (d).
- **Do not attach original documents because attachments may be destroyed after scanning.**
- **If the claim is based on delivering health care goods or services, do not disclose confidential health care information. Leave out or redact confidential information both in the claim and in the attached documents.**
- **A *Proof of Claim* form and any attached documents must show only the last 4 digits of any social security number, individual’s tax identification number, or financial account number, and only the year of any person’s date of birth.** See Bankruptcy Rule 9037.

- **For a minor child, fill in only the child’s initials and the full name and address of the child’s parent or guardian.** For example, write *A.B., a minor child (John Doe, parent, 123 Main St., City, State)*. See Bankruptcy Rule 9037.

## Confirmation that the claim has been filed

To receive confirmation that the claim has been filed, either enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope and a copy of this form. You may view a list of filed claims in this case by visiting the Claims and Noticing Agent's website at <https://restructuring.ra.kroll.com/SVBFG>.

## Understand the terms used in this form

**Administrative expense:** Generally, an expense that arises after a bankruptcy case is filed in connection with operating, liquidating, or distributing the bankruptcy estate. 11 U.S.C. § 503.

**Claim:** A creditor’s right to receive payment for a debt that the debtor owed on the date the debtor filed for bankruptcy. 11 U.S.C. §101 (5). A claim may be secured or unsecured.

**Claim Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 503(b)(9):** A claim arising from the value of any goods received by the Debtor within 20 days before the date of commencement of the above case, in which the goods have been sold to the Debtor in the ordinary course of the Debtor's business. Attach documentation supporting such claim.

**Creditor:** A person, corporation, or other entity to whom a debtor owes a debt that was incurred on or before the date the debtor filed for bankruptcy. 11 U.S.C. § 101 (10).

**Debtor:** A person, corporation, or other entity who is in bankruptcy. Use the debtor's name and case number as shown in the bankruptcy notice you received. 11 U.S.C. § 101 (13).

**Evidence of perfection:** Evidence of perfection of a security interest may include documents showing that a security interest has been filed or recorded, such as a mortgage, lien, certificate of title, or financing statement.

**Information that is entitled to privacy:** A *Proof of Claim* form and any attached documents must show only the last 4 digits of any social security number, an individual's tax identification number, or a financial account number, only the initials of a minor's name, and only the year of any person's date of birth. If a claim is based on delivering health care goods or services, limit the disclosure of the goods or services to avoid embarrassment or disclosure of confidential health care information. You may later be required to give more information if the trustee or someone else in interest objects to the claim.

**Priority claim:** A claim within a category of unsecured claims that is entitled to priority under 11 U.S.C. § 507(a). These claims are paid from the available money or property in a bankruptcy case before other unsecured claims are paid. Common priority unsecured claims include alimony, child support, taxes, and certain unpaid wages.

**Proof of claim:** A form that shows the amount of debt the debtor owed to a creditor on the date of the bankruptcy filing. The form must be filed in the district where the case is pending.

**Redaction of information:** Masking, editing out, or deleting certain information to protect privacy. Filers must redact or leave out information entitled to **privacy** on the *Proof of Claim* form and any attached documents.

**Secured claim under 11 U.S.C. § 506(a):** A claim backed by a lien on particular property of the debtor. A claim is secured to the extent that a creditor has the right to be paid from the property before other creditors are paid. The amount of a secured claim usually cannot be more than the value of the particular property on which the creditor has a lien. Any amount owed to a creditor that is more than the value of the property normally may be an unsecured claim. But exceptions exist; for example, see 11 U.S.C. § 1322(b) and the final sentence of § 1325(a).

Examples of liens on property include a mortgage on real estate or a security interest in a car. A lien may be voluntarily granted by a debtor or may be obtained through a court proceeding. In some states, a court judgment may be a lien.

**Setoff:** Occurs when a creditor pays itself with money belonging to the debtor that it is holding, or by canceling a debt it owes to the debtor.

**Unsecured claim:** A claim that does not meet the requirements of a secured claim. A claim may be unsecured in part to the extent that the amount of the claim is more than the value of the property on which a creditor has a lien.

### Offers to purchase a claim

Certain entities purchase claims for an amount that is less than the face value of the claims. These entities may contact creditors offering to purchase their claims. Some written communications from these entities may easily be confused with official court documentation or communications from the debtor. These entities do not represent the bankruptcy court, the bankruptcy trustee, or the debtor. A creditor has no obligation to sell its claim. However, if a creditor decides to sell its claim, any transfer of that claim is subject to Bankruptcy Rule 3001(e), any provisions of the Bankruptcy Code (11 U.S.C. § 101 et seq.) that apply, and any orders of the bankruptcy court that apply.

### Please send completed Proof(s) of Claim to:

If by first class mail:

SVB Financial Group Claims Processing Center  
c/o Kroll Restructuring Administration LLC  
Grand Central Station, PO Box 4850  
New York, NY 10163-4850

If by overnight courier or hand delivery:

SVB Financial Group Claims Processing Center  
c/o Kroll Restructuring Administration LLC  
850 Third Avenue, Suite 412  
Brooklyn, NY 11232

**You may also file your claim electronically at**

<https://restructuring.ra.kroll.com/SVBFG/EPOC-Index>

<b>Do not file these instructions with your form</b>
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**Addendum to Proof of Claim Against SVB Financial Group**

**I. Introduction**

1. On March 17, 2023, SVB Financial Group (the “Debtor”) filed a voluntary petition for bankruptcy under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York (the “Bankruptcy Court”).

2. On August 10, 2023, Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC (“Goldman Sachs”) filed claim number 1032 (the “Original Claim”) seeking indemnity rights on behalf of, among others, Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC (“Morgan Stanley,” also referred to herein as the “Claimant”).

3. Morgan Stanley submits this proof of claim (the “Proof of Claim”) to amend the Original Claim, or, in the alternative, as a new claim in the Debtor’s chapter 11 case on behalf of itself.

**II. The Claim**

3. The Claimant hereby amends the Original Claim to clarify that the Original Claim includes, or, in the alternative, asserts, a claim (the “Claim”) against the Debtor on account of (i) the engagement letter dated December 31, 2020, between Claimant and Boston Private Financial Holdings, Inc. (“Boston Private”), which incorporates the indemnification agreement between Morgan Stanley and Boston Private dated September 30, 2020, in connection with the merger of Boston Private and the Debtor, (the “Merger”) attached hereto as Exhibit 1 (collectively, the “Agreement”), and/or (ii) other contractual, statutory and/or common law rights of repurchase, indemnity, contribution, subrogation, and/or reimbursement for amounts that have been liquidated, unliquidated, paid, unpaid, fixed or otherwise contingent and arising from or related to existing, potential, or threatened litigation arising from or related to existing potential, or threatened litigation arising from or related to the Merger.

4. The Claimant does not waive any right or rights of action that it has or may have against the Debtor or any other person or persons and does not waive any substantive or procedural defenses to any claim that may be asserted against the Claimant by the Debtor or any other person. The Claimant reserves the right to amend or supplement this Proof of Claim in any manner, including to specify the amount of the Claimant's contingent, unmatured and/or unliquidated claims as they become non-contingent, matured and/or liquidated. This Proof of Claim shall not prejudice the Claimant's rights to file any other requests for payment or proofs of claim, including as related to the Claim asserted herein. The Claimant reserves the right to withdraw this Proof of Claim for any reason.

5. By filing this Proof of Claim, the Claimant does not submit itself to the jurisdiction of the Bankruptcy Court for any purpose other than with respect to this Proof of Claim.

6. This Proof of Claim is not intended to be, and shall not be construed as: (i) an election of remedies; (ii) a waiver of any defaults; (iii) a waiver or limitation of any of the Claimant's rights, remedies, claims or interests under applicable law against the Claimant or any other person or entity; (iv) a waiver of any setoff or recoupment rights under applicable law; (v) a waiver of any netting rights under applicable law; (vi) a waiver of the Claimant's property or ownership rights (legal or equitable); or (vii) a waiver of the Claimant's legal, equitable or beneficial interests.

7. This Claim shall not be deemed to be a waiver of the Claimant's right (i) to have final orders in non-core matters entered only after *de novo* review by a District Court Judge, (ii) to trial by jury in any proceedings so triable in these cases or any case, controversy or proceeding related to these cases, (iii) to have the District Court withdraw the reference in any matter subject to mandatory or discretionary withdrawal, or (iv) to any other rights, claims, actions, setoffs or

recoupments to which the Claimant is or may be entitled, in law or in equity, all of which rights, claims, actions, defenses and recoupments the Claimant expressly reserves.

8. This Claim may be secured by a right of setoff and is in addition to, and does not supersede, any other claim filed or to be filed by the Claimant.

9. All notices and communications concerning this Proof of Claim should be addressed as follows:

Daniel Lewis  
Shearman & Sterling LLP  
599 Lexington Avenue  
New York, New York 10022  
(212) 848-8691  
[daniel.lewis@shearman.com](mailto:daniel.lewis@shearman.com)

Dated as of March 15, 2024

**Exhibit 1**

**Agreement**

December 31, 2020

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Anthony DeChellis  
Chief Executive Officer  
Boston Private Financial Holdings, Inc.  
Ten Post Office Square  
Boston, MA 02109

Dear Anthony:

Pursuant to our recent discussions, I am pleased to confirm the arrangements under which Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC (“Morgan Stanley”) has been engaged since July 15, 2020 by Boston Private Financial Holdings, Inc. (“Boston Private”, the “Company” or “you”) as your exclusive financial advisor in connection with the potential sale, transfer or other disposition of a majority or all of the equity or assets of the Company, whether by way of stock or asset sale, merger, business combination or any other extraordinary corporate transaction (the “Transaction”).

During the term of our engagement Morgan Stanley will provide you with financial advice and assistance in connection with the Transaction, including, as appropriate, advice and assistance with respect to defining objectives, performing valuation analyses, structuring, planning and negotiating the Transaction, and reviewing any shareholder matters in connection with the approval of the Transaction (if any). Please be advised that Morgan Stanley does not provide accounting, tax or legal advice.

Morgan Stanley may provide its services through or in conjunction with one or more of its affiliates and references in this letter agreement to “Morgan Stanley”, “we” and “us” shall, except where the context otherwise requires, include any such affiliates.

We will charge an “Announcement Fee” of \$2,000,000 upon the earlier to occur of (i) the Company entering into any definitive agreement with respect to the Transaction and (ii) the delivery of an Opinion (as defined below) by Morgan Stanley in the event requested by the Company (or if such Opinion is first delivered orally, the date of such oral delivery). The Announcement Fee is due and payable upon execution of such agreement or upon the delivery of such Opinion.

If the Transaction is consummated, the Company agrees to pay Morgan Stanley a “Total Transaction Fee” equal to 1.13% of the Transaction Value (as defined below). Any Announcement Fee or Termination Fee (to the extent paid within the prior 12 months) paid to Morgan Stanley will be credited, to the extent not previously credited, against the Total Transaction Fee.

The “Transaction Value” shall be the value of the consideration paid per share of common stock multiplied by the total number of common shares (including the number of shares which would be outstanding upon the exercise, conversion, redemption or exchange of any



outstanding securities, including, without limitation, options (net of the exercise price), warrants, convertible debt and convertible preferred stock of the Company (or in the case of a sale of assets, the consideration paid for such assets). In calculating the Transaction Value, to the extent that the consideration to be paid to the Company or the shareholders of the Company, as the case may be, consists of the securities of the buyer, then the value of such securities to be used to calculate the Transaction Value shall be based on the volume weighted average of the closing price of such securities over the ten trading day period up to and including the trading day preceding the day of announcement of the Transaction. If such securities do not have an existing public trading market, the value of the securities shall be the value mutually agreeable to you and us at the time of the closing. Any amounts to be paid by the buyer contingent upon future events shall be estimated for purposes of the Total Transaction Fee calculation at an expected value mutually agreeable to you and to Morgan Stanley at the time of closing, except that amounts held in escrow shall be deemed paid at closing.

If an agreed upon Transaction is not consummated and the Company receives compensation pursuant to the termination provisions contained in the definitive agreement relating to the Transaction (a "Reverse Breakup Fee"), Morgan Stanley will charge a "Termination Fee" equal to 25% of the Reverse Breakup Fee, which will not exceed 50% of the Total Transaction Fee and against which any Announcement Fee paid will be credited, to the extent not previously credited. For purposes of calculating the Termination Fee, the Reverse Breakup Fee shall include (i) the fair value of any options granted to the Company pursuant to any cross option agreement or comparable provision and (ii) any judgment for damages, amounts or other consideration received by the Company in settlement of any dispute as a result of the termination or other failure to consummate the Transaction. The Termination Fee will become payable and will be paid by the Company upon its receipt of the Reverse Breakup Fee.

The full Total Transaction Fee in connection with a completed transaction will become payable and will be paid by the Company upon the earliest of closing of the Transaction, when control of 50% or more of the Company's common stock changes hands to the buyer or when control of the assets to be transferred by the Company in the Transaction changes hands to the buyer. The Company agrees to arrange for payment of Morgan Stanley's fees set forth herein by wire transfer on or before the dates specified in this letter agreement.

It is possible that this assignment may lead to an outcome not anticipated in this letter or may require more of our time and efforts than initially anticipated. In such event, we would propose appropriate compensation, to be mutually agreed, that may be in addition to the fees already described in this letter for our services in connection with such transaction consistent with our usual practice.

Upon your request, we will render a financial opinion letter (an "Opinion") in accordance with our customary practice with respect to the consideration to be received in the Transaction. The terms of our Opinion and the nature and scope of any analysis and investigation we undertake in order to render such Opinion shall be such as we consider appropriate in the circumstances. Any such Opinion will expressly exclude consideration of any compensation or compensation arrangements arising from the Transaction which benefit any officer, director or employee of the Company, or any class of such persons.

Morgan Stanley will rely on the accuracy and completeness, without verifying it independently, of any information we receive or review in connection with this engagement. We will not independently evaluate or appraise any assets or liabilities that may be involved in this engagement, or advise or opine on any related solvency issues. We will assume that any forecasted financial information reflects the best available estimates of future financial performance. Any advice or opinions Morgan Stanley provides, and any fee arrangements for this assignment may not be disclosed or referred to publicly or to any third party except (i) in accordance with our prior written consent, or (ii) as required by applicable law, rule or regulation provided, however, that in the case of the foregoing clause (ii), the Company will provide Morgan Stanley with reasonable advance written notice, to the extent not prohibited by applicable law, rule or regulation, of any such requirement so that Morgan Stanley may seek, with the reasonable cooperation of the Company, an appropriate protective order or other reliable assurance that confidential treatment will be accorded to such disclosure and (iii) a complete copy of our Opinion, with a conformed signature, may be included in any filing the Company is required to make with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and distribute to shareholders in connection with the Transaction, if such inclusion is required by applicable law (including, for the avoidance of doubt, a registration statement and related proxy statement filed in connection with the Transaction), provided that if required by applicable law, any description or summary of or reference to Morgan Stanley or its Opinion shall be subject to the review and approval of Morgan Stanley and its counsel (not to be unreasonably withheld, conditioned or delayed).

The Company and Morgan Stanley agree that the Confidentiality Agreement by and between Morgan Stanley and the Company dated July 15, 2020 (the “Confidentiality Agreement”) shall apply to the engagement hereunder in accordance with its terms.

Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, Morgan Stanley and the Company agree that the Company (and its employees, representatives or other agents) may disclose to any and all persons, without limitation of any kind from the commencement of discussions, the U.S. federal and state income tax treatment and tax structure of the Transaction and all materials of any kind (including opinions or other tax analyses) that are provided to the Company relating to such tax treatment and tax structure, except where confidentiality is reasonably necessary to comply with securities laws. For this purpose, “tax structure” is limited to facts relevant to the U.S. federal and state income tax treatment of the Transaction and does not include information relating to the identity of the parties, their affiliates, agents or advisors.

If, prior to the consummation of the Transaction and at any time during the term of our engagement or within one year following the expiration or termination of this letter agreement (other than for cause (as defined below)), the Company receives any proposals (or such proposals are made public) from a shareholder seeking to influence the management or policies of the Company and the Company seeks to retain a financial advisor in connection with such shareholder proposal or other shareholder activism or defense matters, Morgan Stanley shall act as exclusive financial advisor to the Company in connection with any such shareholder proposal or shareholder activism or defense

matters, on mutually agreed terms and conditions, including fees, pursuant to separate documentation.

In addition to any of the foregoing fees for professional services, you agree to reimburse us for, and we will separately bill, our reasonable, out-of-pocket expenses incurred from time to time in connection with performing the services hereunder; provided, that such expenses to be reimbursed pursuant to this paragraph shall not exceed \$50,000 in the aggregate (the "Expense Cap") without your prior written consent (email is sufficient). Generally, these expenses include travel costs, document production and other expenses of this type and will also include the fees of outside counsel and other professional advisors should they be required and engaged with your prior consent (email is sufficient) (such consent not to be unreasonably withheld, conditioned or delayed); provided, that the aggregate fees and expenses payable to any such outside counsel shall not exceed \$100,000 without your prior consent (email is sufficient) (such consent not to be unreasonably withheld, conditioned or delayed). For the avoidance of doubt, none of the limitations in this paragraph shall in any way affect the Company's obligations set forth in the Indemnity Agreement (as defined below).

As you know, Morgan Stanley is a global financial services firm engaged in the securities, investment management and individual wealth management businesses. Our securities business is engaged in securities underwriting, trading, hedging and brokerage activities, foreign exchange, commodities and derivatives trading, prime brokerage, as well as providing investment banking, financing and financial advisory services. Morgan Stanley, its affiliates, directors and officers may at any time invest on a principal basis or manage funds that invest, hold long or short positions, finance positions, and may trade or otherwise structure and effect transactions, for their own account or the accounts of its customers, in debt or equity securities or loans of the Company, or any other company, or any currency or commodity, or instrument that may be involved in any of the transactions contemplated herein, or any related derivative instrument. Morgan Stanley and its affiliates may have provided, and may in the future seek to provide, financial advisory and financing services, in each case unrelated to the Transaction, for and may have received and may in the future receive compensation from other parties now or that may become involved in any of the transactions contemplated herein. The Company acknowledges that the interests of Morgan Stanley and its affiliates engaged in providing such financial advisory and financing services may differ from those of the Company. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this letter agreement, during the term of this engagement, without the prior written consent of the Company, neither Morgan Stanley nor any of its controlled affiliates shall be engaged to provide M&A financial advisory or financing services to any party (other than the Company) in connection with the Transaction; provided, that the foregoing shall not apply to (A) any credit facilities to which Morgan Stanley or one of its affiliates is a party in effect on the date hereof or (B) any new credit facility or amendment to an existing credit facility, or debt or equity securities offering, so long as Morgan Stanley is not aware that such proceeds will be used for the purposes of financing a purchaser (other than the Company) specifically in connection with the Transaction. Although Morgan Stanley in the course of its other activities and relationships may acquire information about the Transaction or other entities and persons which may be the subject of the engagement contemplated by this letter agreement, Morgan Stanley shall have no obligation to disclose such information, or the fact that Morgan Stanley is in possession of such information, to

the Company or to use such information on the Company's behalf. As of the date hereof, Morgan Stanley is not aware of any assignment in respect of which it is presently engaged that constitutes an actual conflict of interest relative to its engagement hereunder, as identified and determined in accordance with Morgan Stanley's customary conflicts-related policies and procedures. Morgan Stanley shall notify the Company if at any time Morgan Stanley reasonably believes that any such conflict exists, as identified and determined in accordance with Morgan Stanley's customary conflicts-related policies and procedures. The substance of any such notification shall be subject to any obligations of confidentiality owed to third parties.

Morgan Stanley's financial advice is intended solely for the benefit and use of the senior management and the Board of Directors of the Company in considering the Transaction, is not on behalf of, and shall not confer rights or remedies upon, any shareholder, employee or creditor of the Company or any other person, and may not be used or relied upon for any other purpose. Morgan Stanley will act under this letter agreement as an independent contractor with duties and obligations solely to the Company and only as set forth in this letter agreement and not in any other capacity, including as a fiduciary. Because we will be acting on your behalf in this capacity, it is our practice to receive indemnification. The parties agree that the indemnity agreement dated September 30, 2020 (the "Indemnity Agreement") shall apply to the terms of our engagement hereunder.

Morgan Stanley and the Company (on its own behalf and, to the extent permitted by law, on behalf of its shareholders) each waives any right to trial by jury in any action, claim, suit or proceeding with respect to Morgan Stanley's engagement as financial advisor or its role in connection therewith. The parties agree that any dispute concerning this letter agreement, the engagement or the Indemnity Agreement (including any claim against any Morgan Stanley affiliate) will be resolved in the courts located in the Borough of Manhattan, New York, and the Company and Morgan Stanley submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of that Borough for purposes of any such dispute and waive any objections to personal jurisdiction. Both parties agree that New York law applies to any dispute concerning this letter agreement or the engagement (including any claim against any Morgan Stanley affiliate), without regard to principles of conflicts of laws. The Company and Morgan Stanley agree that a final, non-appealable judgment in any such action or proceeding shall be conclusive and may be enforced in other jurisdictions by suit on the judgment or in any other manner provided by law.

This letter agreement and our services hereunder shall automatically expire on the one-year anniversary of the date hereof, and may also be terminated earlier with or without cause by you or by Morgan Stanley at any time upon express written notice and without liability or continuing obligation to you or to us (except for any compensation earned and right to reimbursement of expenses incurred by us to the date of termination or expiration and except, in the case of termination by you without cause or expiration of this letter agreement, for (i) our right to fees pursuant to this letter with respect to the Transaction if a definitive agreement providing for the Transaction is executed within one year of such termination or expiration and such Transaction is later (whether or not during such one-year period) consummated or terminated in accordance with the termination provisions contained in such definitive agreement and (ii) our right to be engaged by the Company in connection with any publicly disclosed or privately received proposal from a shareholder

seeking to influence the management or policies of the Company and the Company determines to retain a financial advisor in connection with shareholder activism or defense matters, which arises prior to the consummation of the Transaction and within one year of such termination or expiration) and provided that the non-disclosure, jury trial waiver, governing law and venue provisions and the Indemnity Agreement will remain operative regardless of any termination or expiration of this letter agreement. For purposes of this letter agreement, "cause" shall mean conduct on the part of Morgan Stanley in the performance of our services hereunder that is determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to constitute gross negligence, willful misconduct or bad faith.


This letter agreement, the Indemnity Agreement and the Confidentiality Agreement represent the entire agreement between the Company and Morgan Stanley with respect to this engagement and may only be amended in writing. This letter agreement may be executed in two or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed to be an original, but all of which shall constitute one and the same agreement. A signed copy of this letter agreement delivered by facsimile, e-mail (including pdf or any electronic signature complying with the U.S. federal ESIGN Act of 2000, e.g., [www.docusign.com](http://www.docusign.com)) or other means of electronic transmission shall be deemed to have the same legal effect as delivery of an original signed copy of this letter agreement.

If the terms of our engagement as set forth in this letter agreement are satisfactory, kindly sign the enclosed copy of this letter agreement and return it to us.

We look forward to working with the Company on this very important assignment.

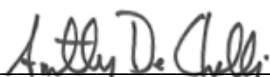
Very truly yours,

MORGAN STANLEY & CO. LLC

By:   
Name: Elizabeth Jacobs  
Title: Managing Director

Accepted and agreed to:

BOSTON PRIVATE FINANCIAL HOLDINGS, INC.

By:   
Name: Anthony DeChellis  
Title: Chief Executive Officer

Date: January 1, 2021

**BOSTON PRIVATE**  
WEALTH ▫ TRUST ▫ PRIVATE BANKING

Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC  
1585 Broadway  
New York, New York 10036

*Ladies and Gentlemen:*

This letter will confirm that Boston Private Financial Holdings, Inc. ("Boston Private", "we" or "us") has engaged Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC ("Morgan Stanley" or "you") since July 15, 2020 to advise and assist us in connection with a strategic partnership with SVB Financial Group (the "Engagement"). We will wish to sign a formal engagement letter with you at a later date setting out in greater detail the agreed terms and scope of the Engagement. We understand that you will be acting in connection with the Engagement as an independent contractor with duties and obligations solely to us and not in any other capacity, including as a fiduciary. We agree that Morgan Stanley's financial advice is intended solely for the benefit and use of our senior management and Board of Directors in considering the matters that are the subject of the Engagement, is not on behalf of, and shall not confer rights or remedies upon, any shareholder, employee or creditor of Boston Private Financial Holdings, Inc. or any other person, and may not be used or relied upon for any other purpose. We further understand that Morgan Stanley does not provide accounting, tax or legal advice. In consideration of your agreement to act on our behalf in connection with such matters, we agree to indemnify and hold harmless you and your affiliates and your and their respective officers, directors, employees and agents and each other person, if any, controlling you or any of your affiliates (you and each such other person being an "Indemnified Person") from and against any losses, claims, damages or liabilities related to, arising out of or in connection with the Engagement, and will reimburse each Indemnified Person for all reasonable and documented out-of-pocket expenses (including reasonable and documented fees and expenses of counsel) as they are incurred in connection with investigating, preparing, pursuing or defending any action, claim, suit, investigation or proceeding related to, arising out of or in connection with the Engagement, whether or not pending or threatened and whether or not any Indemnified Person is a party. We will not, however, be responsible for any losses, claims, damages or liabilities (or expenses relating thereto) that are finally judicially determined to have resulted from the bad faith, gross negligence or willful misconduct of any Indemnified Person. We also agree that no Indemnified Person shall have any liability (whether direct or indirect, in contract or tort or otherwise) to us for or in connection with the Engagement except for any such liability for losses, claims, damages or liabilities incurred by us that are finally judicially determined to have resulted from the bad faith, gross negligence or willful misconduct of such Indemnified Person.

Promptly after receipt by any Indemnified Person of actual notice of any action, claim, suit, investigation or proceeding against such Indemnified Person with respect to which indemnity may be sought under this agreement, such Indemnified Person shall promptly notify us in writing; provided, however, that the failure to so notify us shall not relieve us from liability which we may have pursuant to this agreement, except to the extent we are actually prejudiced by such failure. We shall be entitled to participate at our own expense in the defense thereof and, if we so elect, shall be entitled to assume the defense thereof at our expense, including the employment of counsel (in which case we shall not thereafter be responsible for the fees, costs and expenses of any separate counsel retained by such Indemnified Person); provided, however, that such counsel shall be satisfactory to an Indemnified Person in the exercise of its reasonable judgment. Notwithstanding the foregoing, an Indemnified Person shall have the right to employ separate counsel in the defense of any such action, claim, suit, investigation or proceeding, and we shall bear your reasonable documented out-of-pocket fees, costs and expenses of such separate counsel if (a) the use of counsel chosen by us to represent the Indemnified Person would present such counsel with an actual conflict of interest; (b) the representation of both parties by the same counsel would be inappropriate due to differing interests between them; (c) we shall not have employed counsel satisfactory to the Indemnified Person in the exercise of the Indemnified Person's reasonable judgment to represent the Indemnified Person, within a reasonable time after notice of the institution of such action, claim, suit, investigation or proceeding; or (d) we authorize the Indemnified Person to employ separate counsel at our expense. In no event shall we be responsible hereunder for the fees and expenses of more than one counsel plus one local counsel in each relevant jurisdiction for all Indemnified Persons in connection with an action, claim, suit, investigation or proceeding or series of related actions, claims, suits, investigations or proceedings.

We will not, without your prior written consent, settle, compromise, consent to the entry of any judgment in or otherwise seek to terminate any action, claim, suit, investigation or proceeding in respect of which indemnification may be sought hereunder (whether or not any Indemnified Person is a party thereto) unless such settlement, compromise, consent or termination includes a release of each Indemnified Person from any liabilities arising out of such action, claim, suit, investigation or proceeding. No Indemnified Person seeking indemnification, reimbursement or contribution under this agreement will, without our prior written consent, settle, compromise, consent to the entry of any judgment in or otherwise seek to terminate any action, claim, suit, investigation or proceeding referred to in the preceding paragraphs.

If the indemnification provided for in the first paragraph of this agreement is judicially determined to be unavailable (other than in accordance with the terms hereof) to an Indemnified Person in respect of any losses, claims, damages or liabilities referred to herein, then, in lieu of indemnifying such Indemnified Person hereunder, we shall contribute to the amount paid or payable by such Indemnified Person as a result of such losses, claims, damages or liabilities (and expenses relating thereto) (i) in such proportion as is appropriate to reflect the relative benefits to you, on the one hand, and us, on the other hand, of the Engagement or (ii) if the allocation provided by clause (i) above is not available, in such proportion as is appropriate to reflect not only the relative benefits referred to in such clause (i) but also the relative fault of each of you and us, as well as any other relevant equitable considerations, provided, however, in no event shall your aggregate contribution to the amount paid or payable exceed the aggregate amount of fees actually received by you under the Engagement. For the purposes of this agreement, the relative benefits to us and you of the Engagement shall be deemed to be in the same proportion as (a) the total value paid or contemplated to be paid or received or contemplated to be received by us or our stockholders, as

*the case may be, in the transaction or transactions that are the subject of the Engagement, whether or not any such transaction is consummated, bears to (b) the fees paid or to be paid to you under the Engagement.*

*We acknowledge that Morgan Stanley (i) will rely on the accuracy and completeness, without verifying it independently, of any information it receives or reviews in connection with this Engagement; (ii) will not independently evaluate or appraise any assets or liabilities that may be involved in this Engagement, or advise or opine on any related solvency issues and (iii) will assume that any forecasted financial information reflects the best available estimates of future financial performance.*

*We agree that any advice or opinions Morgan Stanley provides to us may not be disclosed or referred to publicly or to any third party except in accordance with your prior written consent or as required by applicable law, in which case we shall provide Morgan Stanley reasonable prior written notice in advance of such disclosure, to the extent permitted by applicable law, so that Morgan Stanley may seek, with our reasonable cooperation, a protective order or other reliable assurance that confidential treatment be accorded to such disclosure. Notwithstanding the foregoing, we (and our employees, representatives and other agents) may disclose to any and all persons, without limitation of any kind from the commencement of discussions, the U.S. federal and state income tax treatment and tax structure of any transaction and all materials of any kind (including opinions or other tax analyses) that are provided to us relating to such tax treatment and tax structure, except where confidentiality is reasonably necessary to comply with securities laws. For this purpose, "tax structure" is limited to facts relevant to the U.S. federal and state income tax treatment of any transaction and does not include information relating to the identity of the parties, their affiliates, agents or advisors.*

*We and Morgan Stanley (on its own behalf and, to the extent permitted by law, on behalf of its shareholders) each waive any right to trial by jury in any action, claim, suit or proceeding with respect to Morgan Stanley's engagement as financial advisor or your role in connection therewith.*

*We acknowledge that (i) Morgan Stanley is a global financial services firm engaged in the securities, investment management and individual wealth management businesses; (ii) its securities business is engaged in securities underwriting, trading and brokerage activities, foreign exchange, commodities and derivatives trading, prime brokerage, as well as providing investment banking, financing and financial advisory services and (iii) Morgan Stanley, its affiliates, directors and officers may at any time invest on a principal basis or manage funds that invest, hold long or short positions, finance positions, and may trade or otherwise structure and effect transactions, for their own account or the accounts of its customers, in any of our or any other company's debt or equity securities or loans or any related derivative instrument.*

*The provisions of this agreement shall apply to the Engagement and any modification thereof and shall remain in full force and effect regardless of any termination or the completion of your services under the Engagement.*

*This agreement and the Engagement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York applicable to contracts executed in and to be performed in that state.*

Very truly yours,

BOSTON PRIVATE FINANCIAL HOLDINGS, INC.

By 

Name: Anthony DeChellis  
Title: Chief Executive Officer

Accepted:

MORGAN STANLEY & CO. LLC

By: 

Name: Graham H. Nix  
Title: Executive Director

Date: September 30, 2020

**Exhibit E**

**Merger Agreement**



AGREEMENT AND PLAN OF MERGER

by and between

SVB FINANCIAL GROUP

and

BOSTON PRIVATE FINANCIAL HOLDINGS, INC.

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Dated as of January 4, 2021

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AGREEMENT AND PLAN OF MERGER

AGREEMENT AND PLAN OF MERGER, dated as of January 4, 2021 (this “Agreement”), by and between SVB Financial Group, a Delaware corporation (“SVB Financial”), and Boston Private Financial Holdings, Inc., a Massachusetts corporation (“Boston Private”).

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the Boards of Directors of SVB Financial and Boston Private have approved the entry into this Agreement and determined that it is in the best interests of their respective companies to consummate the strategic business combination transaction provided for herein, pursuant to which Boston Private will, subject to the terms and conditions set forth herein, merge with and into SVB Financial (the “Merger”), so that SVB Financial is the surviving corporation (hereinafter sometimes referred to in such capacity as the “Surviving Corporation”) in the Merger;

WHEREAS, for Federal income tax purposes, it is intended that the Merger shall qualify as a “reorganization” within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”), and this Agreement is intended to be and is adopted as a plan of reorganization for purposes of Sections 354 and 361 of the Code; and

WHEREAS, the parties desire to make certain representations, warranties and agreements in connection with the Merger and also to prescribe certain conditions to the Merger.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants, representations, warranties and agreements contained herein, and intending to be legally bound hereby, the parties agree as follows:

ARTICLE I

THE MERGER

1.1 The Merger. Subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement, in accordance with the Delaware General Corporation Law (the “DGCL”) and the Massachusetts Business Corporations Act (the “MBCA”), at the Effective Time, Boston Private shall merge with and into SVB Financial. SVB Financial shall be the Surviving Corporation in the Merger and shall continue its corporate existence under the laws of the State of Delaware. Upon consummation of the Merger, the separate corporate existence of Boston Private shall terminate.

1.2 Closing. Subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement, the closing of the Merger (the “Closing”) will take place (a) by electronic exchange of documents at 10:00 a.m., New York City time, on the first business day of the calendar month following the calendar month in which all of the conditions set forth in Article VII hereof have been satisfied or waived at least three (3) business days before the end of such month (other than those conditions that by their nature can only be satisfied at the Closing, but subject to the satisfaction or waiver thereof), and if all such conditions are satisfied or waived within the last three (3) business days of a calendar month, then on the first business day of the second succeeding calendar month; or (b) at such other date, time or place as SVB Financial and Boston Private may mutually agree in writing after all of such conditions have been satisfied or waived (other than those conditions that by their nature can only be satisfied at the Closing, but subject to the satisfaction or waiver thereof). The date on which the Closing occurs is referred to in this Agreement as the “Closing Date.”

1.3 Effective Time. On or (if agreed by SVB Financial and Boston Private) prior to the Closing Date, SVB Financial and Boston Private, respectively, shall cause to be filed a certificate of merger (the “Certificate of”



Merger”) with the Delaware Secretary of State (the “Delaware Secretary”) and articles of merger (the “Articles of Merger”) with the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (the “Massachusetts Secretary”). The Merger shall become effective at such time as specified in the Certificate of Merger in accordance with the relevant provisions of the DGCL and MBCA, or at such other time as shall be provided by applicable law (such time hereinafter referred to as the “Effective Time”).

1.4 Effects of the Merger. At and after the Effective Time, the Merger shall have the effects set forth in the applicable provisions of the DGCL, the MBCA and this Agreement.

1.5 Conversion of Boston Private Common Stock. At the Effective Time, by virtue of the Merger and without any action on the part of SVB Financial, Boston Private or the holder of any of the following securities:

(a) Subject to Section 2.2(e), each share of the common stock, par value \$1.00 per share, of Boston Private issued and outstanding immediately prior to the Effective Time (the “Boston Private Common Stock”), except for shares of Boston Private Common Stock owned by Boston Private as treasury stock or otherwise owned by Boston Private or SVB Financial (in each case other than shares of Boston Private Common Stock (i) held in any Boston Private Benefit Plans or related trust accounts, managed accounts, mutual funds and the like, or otherwise held in a fiduciary or agency capacity, that are beneficially owned by third parties and (ii) shares held, directly or indirectly, in respect of debts previously contracted (collectively, the “Exception Shares”)), shall be converted, in accordance with the procedures set forth in this Agreement, into the right to receive, without interest, (i) 0.0228 shares (the “Exchange Ratio”) of the common stock, par value \$0.001 per share, of SVB Financial (the “SVB Financial Common Stock”) and (ii) \$2.10 in cash (the “Per Share Cash Consideration”) (the consideration described in clauses (i) and (ii), the “Merger Consideration”).

(b) All the shares of Boston Private Common Stock converted into the right to receive the Merger Consideration pursuant to this Article I shall no longer be outstanding and shall automatically be cancelled and shall cease to exist as of the Effective Time, and each certificate (each, an “Old Certificate”, it being understood that any reference herein to “Old Certificate” shall be deemed to include reference to book-entry account statements relating to the ownership of shares of Boston Private Common Stock) previously representing any such shares of Boston Private Common Stock shall thereafter represent only the right to receive (i) the Merger Consideration, (ii) cash in lieu of a fractional share which the shares of Boston Private Common Stock represented by such Old Certificate have been converted into the right to receive pursuant to this Section 1.5 and Section 2.2(e), without any interest thereon, and (iii) any dividends or distributions which the holder thereof has the right to receive pursuant to Section 2.2, without any interest thereon. Old Certificates previously representing shares of Boston Private Common Stock shall be exchanged for certificates or, at SVB Financial’s option, evidence of shares in book-entry form (collectively referred to herein as “New Certificates”), representing whole shares of SVB Financial Common Stock and cash as set forth in Section 1.5(a) (together with any dividends or distributions with respect thereto and cash in lieu of fractional shares issued in consideration therefor) upon the surrender of such Old Certificates in accordance with Section 2.2, without any interest thereon. If, between the date of this Agreement and the Effective Time, the outstanding shares of Boston Private Common Stock or SVB Financial Common Stock shall have been, in accordance with Section 5.2(b) or Section 5.3(b), respectively, changed into or exchanged for a different number or kind of shares or securities, as a result of a reorganization, recapitalization, reclassification, stock dividend, stock split, reverse stock split, or other similar change in capitalization, or there shall be any extraordinary dividend or distribution, an appropriate and proportionate adjustment shall be made to the Exchange Ratio, and to the Merger Consideration, to give holders of Boston Private Common Stock the same economic effect as contemplated by this Agreement prior to such event.

(c) Notwithstanding anything in this Agreement to the contrary, at the Effective Time, all shares of Boston Private Common Stock that are owned by Boston Private or SVB Financial (in each case other than the Exception Shares) or by any direct or indirect Boston Private Subsidiary prior to the Effective Time shall be cancelled and shall cease to exist and neither the Merger Consideration nor any other consideration shall be delivered in exchange therefor.

1.6 SVB Financial Common Stock. At and after the Effective Time, each share of SVB Financial Common Stock issued and outstanding immediately prior to the Effective Time shall remain issued and outstanding and shall not be affected by the Merger.

1.7 Treatment of Boston Private Equity Awards.

(a) At the Effective Time, each option to purchase shares of Boston Private Common Stock that is not a Boston Private Performance-Based Stock Option (a "Boston Private Stock Option") that is outstanding and unexercised immediately prior to the Effective Time shall, automatically and without any required action on the part of the holder thereof, be converted into an option (a "SVB Financial Stock Option") to purchase that number of whole shares of SVB Financial Common Stock (rounded down to the nearest whole share) equal to the product of (i) the number of shares of Boston Private Common Stock subject to such Boston Private Stock Option multiplied by (ii) the Boston Private Equity Award Exchange Ratio (as defined below in Section 1.7(f)) with an exercise price per share of Boston Private Common Stock (rounded up to the nearest whole cent) equal to the quotient of (x) the exercise price per share of Boston Private Common Stock of such Boston Private Stock Option divided by (y) the Boston Private Equity Award Exchange Ratio; provided, however, that the exercise price and the number of shares of SVB Financial Common Stock purchasable pursuant to the Boston Private Stock Options shall be determined in a manner consistent with the requirements of Section 409A of the Code; provided, further, that in the case of any Boston Private Stock Option to which Section 422 of the Code applies, the exercise price and the number of shares of SVB Financial Common Stock purchasable pursuant to such option shall be determined in accordance with the foregoing, subject to such adjustments as are necessary in order to satisfy the requirements of Section 424(a) of the Code. Except as expressly provided in this Section 1.7(a), each such SVB Financial Stock Option shall be subject to the same terms and conditions (including vesting and exercisability terms) as applied to the corresponding Boston Private Stock Option immediately prior to the Effective Time.

(b) At the Effective Time, each performance-based stock option award in respect of shares of Boston Private Common Stock (a "Boston Private Performance-Based Stock Option") that is outstanding and unexercised immediately prior to the Effective Time shall, subject to requisite consent by the holder thereof, be cancelled at the Effective Time for no consideration or payment.

(c) At the Effective Time, each time-based restricted stock unit award in respect of shares of Boston Private Common Stock (a "Boston Private RSU Award") that is outstanding immediately prior to the Effective Time shall, automatically and without any required action on the part of the holder thereof, be converted into a restricted stock unit award (a "SVB Financial RSU Award") in respect of that number of shares of SVB Financial Common Stock (rounded to the nearest whole share) equal to the product of (i) the total number of shares of Boston Private Common Stock subject to the Boston Private RSU Award immediately prior to the Effective Time multiplied by (ii) the Boston Private Equity Award Exchange Ratio. Each such SVB Financial RSU Award shall be settleable in shares of SVB Financial Common Stock. Except as expressly provided in this Section 1.7(c), each such SVB Financial RSU Award shall be subject to the same terms and conditions (including vesting terms) as applied to the corresponding Boston Private RSU Award immediately prior to the Effective Time.

(d) At the Effective Time, each performance-based restricted stock unit award in respect of shares of Boston Private Common Stock (a "Boston Private Performance-Based RSU Award") that is outstanding immediately prior to the Effective Time shall, automatically and without any required action on the part of the holder thereof, be converted into a SVB Financial RSU Award in respect of that number of shares of SVB Financial Common Stock (rounded to the nearest whole share) equal to the product of (i) the total number of shares of Boston Private Common Stock subject to the Boston Private Performance-Based RSU Award immediately prior to the Effective Time, with the number of shares of Boston Private Common Stock determined based on the greater of target and actual performance for the portion of the performance period through the Effective Time as reasonably determined by the compensation committee of the Boston Private Board of Directors (the "Boston Private Compensation Committee") consistent with past practice multiplied by (ii) the Boston Private Equity Award Exchange Ratio. Each such SVB Financial RSU Award

shall be settleable in shares of SVB Financial Common Stock. Except as specifically provided in this Section 1.7(d), each such SVB Financial RSU Award shall be subject to the same terms and conditions (including service-based vesting terms) as applied to the corresponding Boston Private Performance-Based RSU Award immediately prior to the Effective Time.

(e) At or prior to the Effective Time, Boston Private, the Board of Directors of Boston Private or the Boston Private Compensation Committee, as applicable, shall adopt any resolutions and take any actions that are necessary to effectuate the provisions of this Section 1.7. As of the Effective Time, the number and kind of shares available for issuance under each equity incentive plan of Boston Private shall be adjusted to reflect SVB Financial Common Stock in accordance with the provisions of the applicable plan. SVB Financial shall take all corporate actions that are necessary for the assumption of the Boston Private Equity Awards pursuant to Section 1.7(a) through 1.7(d), including the reservation, issuance and listing of SVB Financial Common Stock as necessary to effect the transactions contemplated by this Section 1.7. As soon as practicable following the Effective Time, SVB Financial shall file with the SEC a post-effective amendment to the Form S-4 or a registration statement on Form S-8 (or any successor or other appropriate form) with respect to the shares of SVB Financial Common Stock underlying such Boston Private Equity Awards, and shall use reasonable best efforts to maintain the effectiveness of such registration statement for so long as such assumed Boston Private Equity Awards remain outstanding.

(f) For purposes of this Agreement, “Boston Private Equity Award Exchange Ratio” means the sum of (A) the Exchange Ratio and (B) the quotient obtained by dividing (I) the Per Share Cash Consideration by (II) the SVB Financial Share Closing Price (as defined below in Section 2.2(e)).

1.8 Treatment of Boston Private ESPP. The right to acquire shares of Boston Private Common Stock under the 2001 Employee Stock Purchase Plan, as amended and restated (the “Boston Private ESPP”) is not a Boston Private Stock Option for purposes of this Agreement. No Offering (as defined in the Boston Private ESPP) shall be commenced for a period after December 31, 2020.

1.9 Certificate of Incorporation of Surviving Corporation. At the Effective Time, the Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of SVB Financial (the “SVB Financial Certificate”), as in effect at the Effective Time, shall be the Certificate of Incorporation of the Surviving Corporation until thereafter amended in accordance with its terms and applicable law.

1.10 Bylaws of Surviving Corporation. At the Effective Time, the Amended and Restated Bylaws of SVB Financial (the “SVB Financial Bylaws”), as in effect at the Effective Time, shall be the Bylaws of the Surviving Corporation until thereafter amended in accordance with their terms and applicable law.

1.11 Tax Consequences. It is intended that the Merger shall qualify as a “reorganization” within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Code, and that this Agreement is intended to be and is adopted as a plan of reorganization for the purposes of Sections 354 and 361 of the Code.

1.12 Bank Merger. Following the Merger, Boston Private Bank & Trust Company (“Boston Private Bank”), a Massachusetts-chartered trust company and a wholly owned Subsidiary of Boston Private, will merge (the “Bank Merger”) with and into Silicon Valley Bank (“SVB Bank”), a California-chartered commercial bank and a wholly owned Subsidiary of SVB Financial, pursuant to an agreement in substantially the form attached hereto as Exhibit A (with such reasonable changes as specified by SVB Financial), which agreement shall be entered into by SVB Bank and Boston Private Bank promptly after the date of this Agreement (the “Bank Merger Agreement”). SVB Bank shall be the surviving entity in the Bank Merger and, following the Bank Merger, the separate corporate existence of Boston Private Bank shall cease. Prior to the Effective Time, Boston Private shall cause Boston Private Bank, and SVB Financial shall cause SVB Bank, to execute the Bank Merger Agreement and such certificates or articles of merger and such other documents and certificates as are necessary to make the Bank Merger effective (“Bank Merger Certificates”) following the Effective Time.

ARTICLE II

EXCHANGE OF SHARES

2.1 SVB Financial to Make Shares Available. At or prior to the Effective Time, SVB Financial shall deposit, or shall cause to be deposited, with a bank or trust company designated by SVB Financial and reasonably acceptable to Boston Private (the “Exchange Agent”), for the benefit of the holders of Old Certificates, for exchange in accordance with this Article II, (a) New Certificates to be issued pursuant to Section 1.5 and exchanged pursuant to Section 2.2(a) in exchange for outstanding shares of Boston Private Common Stock, and (b) cash in an amount sufficient to pay (i) the aggregate cash portion of the Merger Consideration and (ii) cash in lieu of any fractional shares (such cash and New Certificates described in the foregoing clauses (a) and (b), together with any dividends or distributions with respect thereto, being hereinafter referred to as the “Exchange Fund”). The Exchange Agent shall invest any cash included in the Exchange Fund as directed by SVB Financial, provided that no such investment or losses thereon shall affect the amount of Merger Consideration payable to the holders of Old Certificates. Any interest and other income resulting from such investments shall be paid to SVB Financial.

2.2 Exchange of Shares.

(a) As promptly as practicable after the Effective Time, but in no event later than ten (10) days thereafter, SVB Financial shall cause the Exchange Agent to mail to each holder of record of one or more Old Certificates representing shares of Boston Private Common Stock immediately prior to the Effective Time that have been converted at the Effective Time into the right to receive the Merger Consideration pursuant to Article I, a letter of transmittal (which shall specify that delivery shall be effected, and risk of loss and title to the Old Certificates shall pass, only upon proper delivery of the Old Certificates to the Exchange Agent) and instructions for use in effecting the surrender of the Old Certificates in exchange for certificates representing the number of whole shares of SVB Financial Common Stock, any cash in lieu of fractional shares and the cash portion of the Merger Consideration which the shares of Boston Private Common Stock represented by such Old Certificate or Old Certificates shall have been converted into the right to receive pursuant to this Agreement as well as any dividends or distributions to be paid pursuant to Section 2.2(b). From and after the Effective Time, upon proper surrender of an Old Certificate or Old Certificates for exchange and cancellation to the Exchange Agent, together with such properly completed letter of transmittal, duly executed, the holder of such Old Certificate or Old Certificates shall be entitled to receive in exchange therefor, as applicable, (i) a New Certificate representing that number of whole shares of SVB Financial Common Stock to which such holder of Boston Private Common Stock shall have become entitled pursuant to the provisions of Article I and (ii) a check representing the amount of (A) the cash portion of the Merger Consideration which such holder has the right to receive in respect of the Old Certificate or Old Certificates surrendered pursuant to the provisions of this Article II, (B) any cash in lieu of fractional shares which such holder has the right to receive in respect of the Old Certificate or Old Certificates surrendered pursuant to the provisions of this Article II and (C) any dividends or distributions which the holder thereof has the right to receive pursuant to this Section 2.2, and the Old Certificate or Old Certificates so surrendered shall forthwith be cancelled. No interest will be paid or accrued on the cash portion of the Merger Consideration or any cash in lieu of fractional shares payable to holders of Old Certificates. Until surrendered as contemplated by this Section 2.2, each Old Certificate shall be deemed at any time after the Effective Time to represent only the right to receive, upon surrender, the Merger Consideration and any cash in lieu of fractional shares or in respect of dividends or distributions as contemplated by this Section 2.2.

(b) No dividends or other distributions declared (if any) with respect to SVB Financial Common Stock shall be paid to the holder of any unsurrendered Old Certificate until the holder thereof shall surrender such Old Certificate in accordance with this Article II. After the surrender of an Old Certificate in accordance with this Article II, the record holder thereof shall be entitled to receive any such dividends or other distributions, without any interest thereon, which theretofore had become payable with respect to the

whole shares of SVB Financial Common Stock which the shares of Boston Private Common Stock represented by such Old Certificate have been converted into the right to receive.

(c) If any New Certificate representing shares of SVB Financial Common Stock is to be issued in a name other than that in which the Old Certificate or Old Certificates surrendered in exchange therefor is or are registered, it shall be a condition of the issuance thereof that the Old Certificate or Old Certificates so surrendered shall be properly endorsed (or accompanied by an appropriate instrument of transfer) and otherwise in proper form for transfer, and that the person requesting such exchange shall pay to the Exchange Agent in advance any transfer or other similar Taxes required by reason of the issuance of a New Certificate representing shares of SVB Financial Common Stock in any name other than that of the registered holder of the Old Certificate or Old Certificates surrendered, or required for any other reason, or shall establish to the satisfaction of the Exchange Agent that such Tax has been paid or is not payable.

(d) After the Effective Time, there shall be no transfers on the stock transfer books of Boston Private of the shares of Boston Private Common Stock that were issued and outstanding immediately prior to the Effective Time. If, after the Effective Time, Old Certificates representing such shares are presented for transfer to the Exchange Agent, they shall be cancelled and exchanged for the Merger Consideration, cash in lieu of fractional shares and dividends or distributions that the holder presenting such Old Certificates is entitled to, as provided in this Article II.

(e) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, no New Certificates or scrip representing fractional shares of SVB Financial Common Stock shall be issued upon the surrender for exchange of Old Certificates, no dividend or distribution with respect to SVB Financial Common Stock shall be payable on or with respect to any fractional share, and such fractional share interests shall not entitle the owner thereof to vote or to any other rights of a shareholder of SVB Financial. In lieu of the issuance of any such fractional share, SVB Financial shall pay to each former shareholder of Boston Private who otherwise would be entitled to receive such fractional share an amount in cash (rounded up to the nearest whole cent) determined by multiplying (i) the average of the closing-sale prices of SVB Financial Common Stock on the NASDAQ Stock Market (the "NASDAQ") as reported by *The Wall Street Journal* for the five (5) full trading days ending on the day preceding the Closing Date (the "SVB Financial Share Closing Price") by (ii) the fraction of a share (rounded to the nearest thousandth when expressed in decimal form) of SVB Financial Common Stock which such holder would otherwise be entitled to receive pursuant to Section 1.5. The parties acknowledge that payment of such cash consideration in lieu of issuing fractional shares is not separately bargained-for consideration, but merely represents a mechanical rounding off for purposes of avoiding the expense and inconvenience that would otherwise be caused by the issuance of fractional shares.

(f) Any portion of the Exchange Fund that remains unclaimed by the shareholders of Boston Private for one (1) year after the Effective Time shall be paid to the Surviving Corporation. Any former shareholders of Boston Private who have not theretofore exchanged their Old Certificates pursuant to this Article II shall thereafter look only to the Surviving Corporation for payment of the Merger Consideration, cash in lieu of any fractional shares and any unpaid dividends and distributions on the SVB Financial Common Stock deliverable in respect of each former share of Boston Private Common Stock such shareholder holds as determined pursuant to this Agreement, in each case, without any interest thereon. Notwithstanding the foregoing, none of SVB Financial, Boston Private, the Surviving Corporation, the Exchange Agent or any other person shall be liable to any former holder of shares of Boston Private Common Stock for any amount delivered in good faith to a public official pursuant to applicable abandoned property, escheat or similar laws. SVB Financial and the Exchange Agent shall be entitled to rely upon the stock transfer books and records of Boston Private to establish the identity of those entitled to receive shares of SVB Financial Common Stock or any other amounts issuable or payable in accordance with this Agreement, which books and records shall be conclusive with respect thereto.

(g) SVB Financial shall be entitled to deduct and withhold, or cause the Exchange Agent to deduct and withhold, from the cash portion of the Merger Consideration, any cash in lieu of fractional shares of

SVB Financial Common Stock, cash dividends or distributions payable pursuant to this Section 2.2 or any other cash amounts otherwise payable pursuant to this Agreement to any holder of Boston Private Common Stock such amounts as it is required to deduct and withhold with respect to the making of such payment under the Code or any provision of state, local or foreign Tax law. To the extent that amounts are so withheld by SVB Financial or the Exchange Agent, as the case may be, and paid over to the appropriate governmental authority, the withheld amounts shall be treated for all purposes of this Agreement as having been paid to the holder of Boston Private Common Stock in respect of which the deduction and withholding was made by SVB Financial or the Exchange Agent, as the case may be.

(h) In the event any Old Certificate shall have been lost, stolen or destroyed, upon the making of an affidavit of that fact by the person claiming such Old Certificate to be lost, stolen or destroyed and, if required by SVB Financial, the posting by such person of a bond in such amount as SVB Financial may determine is reasonably necessary as indemnity against any claim that may be made against it with respect to such Old Certificate, the Exchange Agent will issue in exchange for such lost, stolen or destroyed Old Certificate the Merger Consideration and any cash in lieu of fractional shares deliverable in respect thereof pursuant to this Agreement.

### ARTICLE III

#### REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES OF BOSTON PRIVATE

Except (i) as disclosed in the disclosure schedule delivered by Boston Private to SVB Financial concurrently herewith (the “Boston Private Disclosure Schedule”), provided, that (a) no such item is required to be set forth as an exception to a representation or warranty if its absence would not result in the related representation or warranty being deemed untrue or incorrect, (b) the mere inclusion of an item in the Boston Private Disclosure Schedule as an exception to a representation or warranty shall not be deemed an admission by Boston Private that such item represents a material exception or fact, event or circumstance or that such item is reasonably expected to have a Material Adverse Effect and (c) any disclosures made with respect to a section of this Article III shall be deemed to qualify (1) any other section of this Article III specifically referenced or cross-referenced and (2) other sections of this Article III to the extent it is reasonably apparent on its face (notwithstanding the absence of a specific reference or cross reference) from a reading of the disclosure that such disclosure applies to such other sections or (ii) as disclosed in any Boston Private Reports filed by Boston Private since December 31, 2018, and prior to the date hereof (but disregarding risk factor disclosures contained under the heading “Risk Factors,” or disclosures of risks set forth in any “forward-looking statements” disclaimer or any other statements that are similarly non-specific or cautionary, predictive or forward-looking in nature), Boston Private hereby represents and warrants to SVB Financial as follows:

##### 3.1 Corporate Organization.

(a) Boston Private is a corporation duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and is a bank holding company duly registered under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended (the “BHC Act”). Boston Private has the corporate power and authority to own, lease or operate all its properties and assets and to carry on its business as it is now being conducted in all material respects. Boston Private is duly licensed or qualified to do business and in good standing in each jurisdiction in which the nature of the business conducted by it or the character or location of the properties and assets owned, leased or operated by it makes such licensing, qualification or standing necessary, except where the failure to be so licensed or qualified or to be in good standing would not, either individually or in the aggregate, reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on Boston Private. As used in this Agreement, the term “Material Adverse Effect” means, with respect to SVB Financial, Boston Private or the Surviving Corporation, as the case may be, any effect, change, event, circumstance, condition, occurrence or development that, either individually or in the aggregate, has had or would reasonably be expected to have a material adverse effect on (i) the business, properties, assets,

liabilities, results of operations or financial condition of such party and its Subsidiaries taken as a whole (provided, however, that, with respect to this clause (i), Material Adverse Effect shall not be deemed to include the impact of (A) changes, after the date hereof, in U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (“GAAP”) or applicable regulatory accounting requirements, (B) changes, after the date hereof, in laws, rules or regulations of general applicability to companies in the industries in which such party and its Subsidiaries operate, or interpretations thereof by courts or Governmental Entities, (C) changes, after the date hereof, in global, national or regional political conditions (including the outbreak of war or acts of terrorism) or in economic or market (including equity, credit and debt markets, as well as changes in interest rates) conditions affecting the financial services industry generally and not specifically relating to such party or its Subsidiaries, (D) changes, after the date hereof, resulting from hurricanes, earthquakes, tornados, floods or other natural disasters or from any outbreak of any disease or other public health event (including the COVID-19 pandemic and the implementation of the Pandemic Measures), (E) public disclosure or consummation of the transactions contemplated hereby or actions expressly required by this Agreement or that are taken with the prior written consent of the other party in contemplation of the transactions contemplated hereby (it being understood and agreed that this clause (E) shall not apply with respect to any representation or warranty that is intended to address the consequences of the execution, announcement or performance of this Agreement or consummation of the Merger) or (F) the failure, in and of itself, to meet earnings projections or financial forecasts, but not including the underlying causes thereof; except, with respect to subclause (A), (B), (C) or (D), to the extent that the effects of such change are disproportionately adverse to the business, properties, assets, liabilities, results of operations or financial condition of such party and its Subsidiaries, taken as a whole, as compared to similar companies in the industry in which such party and its Subsidiaries operate); or (ii) the ability of such party to timely consummate the transactions contemplated hereby. As used in this Agreement, the term “Pandemic Measures” means any quarantine, “shelter in place”, “stay at home”, social distancing, shut down, closure, sequester or other directives, guidelines or recommendations promulgated by any Governmental Entity, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization, in each case, in connection with or in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and the term “Subsidiary” when used with respect to any person, means any subsidiary of such person within the meaning ascribed to such term in either Rule 1-02 of Regulation S-X promulgated by the SEC or the BHC Act. True and complete copies of the Restated Articles of Organization of Boston Private, as amended (the “Boston Private Articles of Organization”) and the Amended and Restated Bylaws of Boston Private (the “Boston Private Bylaws”), in each case as in effect as of the date of this Agreement, have previously been made available by Boston Private to SVB Financial.

(b) Each Subsidiary of Boston Private (a “Boston Private Subsidiary”) (i) is duly organized and validly existing under the laws of its jurisdiction of organization, (ii) is duly licensed or qualified to do business and, where such concept is recognized under applicable law, in good standing in all jurisdictions (whether federal, state, local or foreign) where its ownership, leasing or operation of property or the conduct of its business requires it to be so licensed or qualified and in which the failure to be so licensed or qualified or in good standing would reasonably be expected, either individually or in the aggregate, to have a Material Adverse Effect on Boston Private and (iii) has all requisite corporate power and authority to own, lease or operate its properties and assets and to carry on its business as now conducted, except where the failure to have such corporate power or authority would not, individually or in the aggregate, reasonably be expected to be material to Boston Private and its Subsidiaries, taken as a whole. There are no restrictions on the ability of Boston Private or any Boston Private Subsidiary to pay dividends or distributions except, in the case of Boston Private or a Boston Private Subsidiary that is a regulated entity, for restrictions on dividends or distributions generally applicable to all such regulated entities under applicable law. The deposit accounts of Boston Private Bank are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (the “FDIC”) through the Deposit Insurance Fund (as defined in Section 3(y) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act of 1950) to the fullest extent permitted by law, all premiums and assessments required to be paid in connection therewith have been paid when due, and no proceedings for the termination of such insurance are pending or, to Boston Private’s knowledge, threatened. There are no Subsidiaries of Boston Private other than Boston Private Bank that have or are required to have deposit insurance. Section 3.1(b) of the Boston Private

Disclosure Schedule sets forth a true, correct and complete list of all Boston Private Subsidiaries as of the date hereof. True and complete copies of the organizational documents of each Boston Private Subsidiary as in effect as of the date of this Agreement have previously been made available by Boston Private to SVB Financial. There is no person whose results of operations, cash flows, changes in shareholders' equity or financial position are consolidated in the financial statements of Boston Private other than the Boston Private Subsidiaries.

### 3.2 Capitalization.

(a) The authorized capital stock of Boston Private consists of 170,000,000 shares of Boston Private Common Stock and 2,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$1.00 per share. As of December 27, 2020, there were (i) 82,334,257 shares of Boston Private Common Stock issued and outstanding; (ii) 1,118,703 shares of Boston Private Common Stock reserved for issuance upon the exercise of outstanding Boston Private Stock Options; (iii) 391,850 shares of Boston Private Common Stock reserved for issuance upon the exercise of the Boston Private Performance-Based Stock Options (assuming performance goals are fully satisfied); (iv) 998,613 shares of Boston Private Common Stock reserved for issuance upon the settlement of outstanding Boston Private RSU Awards; (v) 1,525,993 shares of Boston Private Common Stock reserved for issuance upon the settlement of outstanding Boston Private Performance-Based RSU Awards (assuming performance goals are satisfied at the target level) or 2,618,758 shares of Boston Private Common Stock reserved for issuance upon the settlement of outstanding Boston Private Performance-Based RSU Awards (assuming performance goals are satisfied at the maximum level); (vi) 81,929 shares of Boston Private Common Stock reserved for issuance under the Boston Private ESPP; and (vii) no shares of preferred stock outstanding. As of the date of this Agreement, except as set forth in the immediately preceding sentence, for changes since December 27, 2020 resulting from the exercise, vesting or settlement of any Boston Private Stock Options, Boston Private Performance-Based Stock Options, Boston Private RSU Awards, Boston Private Performance-Based RSU Awards and accumulated contributions to purchase shares of Boston Private Common Stock under the Boston Private ESPP (collectively, "Boston Private Equity Awards") described in the immediately preceding sentence, there are no shares of capital stock or other voting securities or equity interests of Boston Private issued, reserved for issuance or outstanding. All the issued and outstanding shares of Boston Private Common Stock have been duly authorized and validly issued and are fully paid, nonassessable and free of preemptive rights, with no personal liability attaching to the ownership thereof. There are no bonds, debentures, notes or other indebtedness that have the right to vote on any matters on which shareholders of Boston Private may vote. Except as set forth in Section 3.2(a) of the Boston Private Disclosure Schedule, as of the date of this Agreement, no trust preferred or subordinated debt securities of Boston Private are issued or outstanding. Other than Boston Private Equity Awards issued prior to the date of this Agreement as described in this Section 3.2(a), as of the date of this Agreement there are no outstanding subscriptions, options, warrants, stock appreciation rights, phantom units, scrip, rights to subscribe to, preemptive rights, anti-dilutive rights, rights of first refusal or similar rights, puts, calls, commitments or agreements of any character relating to, or securities or rights convertible or exchangeable into or exercisable for, shares of capital stock or other voting or equity securities of or ownership interest in Boston Private, or contracts, commitments, understandings or arrangements by which Boston Private may become bound to issue additional shares of its capital stock or other equity or voting securities of or ownership interests in Boston Private, or that otherwise obligate Boston Private to issue, transfer, sell, purchase, redeem or otherwise acquire, any of the foregoing.

(b) There are no voting trusts, shareholder agreements, proxies or other agreements in effect to which Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries is a party with respect to the voting or transfer of Boston Private Common Stock, capital stock or other voting or equity securities or ownership interests of Boston Private or granting any shareholder or other person any registration rights. Section 3.2(b) of the Boston Private Disclosure Schedule sets forth a true, correct and complete list of all Boston Private Equity Awards outstanding as of the date hereof specifying, on a holder-by-holder basis, (A) the name of each holder, (B) the number of shares subject to each such Boston Private Equity Award, (C) the grant date of each such



Boston Private Equity Award, (D) the Boston Private equity incentive plan under which such Boston Private Equity Award was granted, (E) the exercise price for each such Boston Private Equity Award that is a Boston Private Stock Option, and (F) the expiration date of each such Boston Private Equity Award that is a Boston Private Stock Option. Other than the Boston Private Equity Awards, no equity-based awards (including any cash awards where the amount of payment is determined in whole or in part based on the price of any capital stock of Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries) are outstanding.

(c) Except as set forth on Section 3.2(c) of the Boston Private Disclosure Schedule, Boston Private owns, directly or indirectly, all of the issued and outstanding shares of capital stock or other equity ownership interests of each of the Boston Private Subsidiaries, free and clear of any liens, claims, title defects, mortgages, pledges, charges, encumbrances and security interests whatsoever ("Liens"), and all of such shares or equity ownership interests are duly authorized and validly issued and are fully paid, nonassessable (except, with respect to Boston Private Subsidiaries that are depository institutions, as provided under any provision of applicable state law comparable to 12 U.S.C. § 55) and free of preemptive rights, with no personal liability attaching to the ownership thereof. No Boston Private Subsidiary has or is bound by any outstanding subscriptions, options, warrants, calls, rights, commitments or agreements of any character calling for the purchase or issuance of any shares of capital stock or any other equity security of such Subsidiary or any securities representing the right to purchase or otherwise receive any shares of capital stock or any other equity security of such Subsidiary.

(d) Other than its ownership interests in the Boston Private Subsidiaries, Boston Private does not directly or indirectly "own" or "control" (such terms as used within the meaning of the BHC Act and its implementing regulations) any equity securities of any other person.

### 3.3 Authority; No Violation.

(a) Boston Private has full corporate power and authority to execute and deliver this Agreement and, subject to the shareholder and other actions described below, to consummate the transactions contemplated hereby. The execution and delivery of this Agreement and the consummation of the Merger have been duly and validly approved by the Board of Directors of Boston Private. The Board of Directors of Boston Private has determined that the Merger, on the terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement, is advisable and in the best interests of Boston Private and its shareholders, has adopted this Agreement and the transactions contemplated hereby (including the Merger), and has directed that this Agreement be submitted to Boston Private's shareholders for approval at a meeting of such shareholders and has adopted a resolution to the foregoing effect. Except for the approval of this Agreement by the affirmative vote of sixty-six and two-thirds percent (66 2/3%) of all the shares of Boston Private Common Stock entitled to vote on this Agreement (the "Requisite Boston Private Vote"), and the approval of the Bank Merger Agreement by the board of directors of Boston Private Bank and Boston Private as Boston Private Bank's sole shareholder, no other corporate proceedings on the part of Boston Private are necessary to approve this Agreement or to consummate the transactions contemplated hereby. This Agreement has been duly and validly executed and delivered by Boston Private and (assuming due authorization, execution and delivery by SVB Financial) constitutes a valid and binding obligation of Boston Private, enforceable against Boston Private in accordance with its terms (except in all cases as such enforceability may be limited by bankruptcy, insolvency, fraudulent transfer, moratorium, reorganization or similar laws of general applicability affecting the rights of creditors generally and the availability of equitable remedies (the "Enforceability Exceptions")).

(b) Neither the execution and delivery of this Agreement by Boston Private nor the consummation by Boston Private of the transactions contemplated hereby (including the Merger and the Bank Merger), nor compliance by Boston Private with any of the terms or provisions hereof, will (i) violate any provision of the Boston Private Articles of Organization or the Boston Private Bylaws or comparable governing documents of any Boston Private Subsidiary, or (ii) assuming that the consents and approvals referred to in Section 3.4 are duly obtained, (x) violate any law, statute, code, ordinance, rule, regulation, judgment, order, writ, decree or injunction applicable to Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries or any of their respective

properties or assets, or (y) violate, conflict with, result in a breach of any provision of or the loss of any benefit under, constitute a default (or an event which, with notice or lapse of time, or both, would constitute a default) under, result in the termination of or a right of termination or cancellation under, accelerate the performance required by, or result in the creation of any Lien upon any of the respective properties or assets of Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries under, any of the terms, conditions or provisions of any note, bond, mortgage, indenture, deed of trust, license, lease, agreement or other instrument or obligation to which Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries is a party, or by which they or any of their respective properties or assets may be bound, except (in the case of clauses (x) and (y) above) for such violations, conflicts, breaches, defaults, terminations, cancellations, accelerations or creations that, either individually or in the aggregate, would not reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on Boston Private.

3.4 Consents and Approvals. Except for (a) the filing of any required applications, filings and notices, as applicable, with the NASDAQ Stock Market, LLC, (b) the filing of any required applications, filings and notices, as applicable, with the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (the “Federal Reserve Board”) under the BHC Act and approval of such applications, filings and notices, (c) the filing of any required applications, filings and notices, as applicable, with the Federal Reserve Board under the Bank Merger Act, and approval of such applications, filings and notices, (d) the filing of any required applications, filings and notices, as applicable, with the California Department of Financial Protection and Innovation and the Massachusetts Commissioner of Banks, and approval of such applications, filings and notices, including the making of any arrangements with the Massachusetts Housing Partnership Fund necessary to obtain approval of the Massachusetts Commissioner of Banks, (e) those additional applications, filings and notices, if any, listed on Section 3.4 of the Boston Private Disclosure Schedule or Section 4.4 of the SVB Financial Disclosure Schedule and approval of such applications, filings and notices, (f) the filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) of a proxy statement in definitive form relating to the meeting of Boston Private’s shareholders to be held in connection with this Agreement and the transactions contemplated hereby (including any amendments or supplements thereto, the “Proxy Statement”), and the registration statement on Form S-4 in which the Proxy Statement will be included as a prospectus, to be filed with the SEC by SVB Financial in connection with the transactions contemplated by this Agreement (the “S-4”) and the declaration by the SEC of the effectiveness of the S-4, (g) the filing of the proxy solicitation and other advisory client materials for any Public Funds with the SEC, as contemplated by Section 6.18, (h) the filing of the Certificate of Merger with the Delaware Secretary pursuant to the DGCL, the filing of the Articles of Merger with the Massachusetts Secretary pursuant to the MBCA and the filing of the Bank Merger Certificates with the applicable Governmental Entities as required by applicable law, and (i) such filings and approvals as are required to be made or obtained under the securities or “Blue Sky” laws of various states in connection with the issuance of the shares of SVB Financial Common Stock pursuant to this Agreement and the approval of the listing of such SVB Financial Common Stock on the NASDAQ, no consents or approvals of or filings or registrations with any court, administrative agency or commission or other governmental or regulatory authority or instrumentality or SRO (each a “Governmental Entity”) are necessary in connection with (A) the execution and delivery by Boston Private of this Agreement or (B) the consummation by Boston Private of the Merger and the other transactions contemplated hereby (including the Bank Merger). As of the date hereof, Boston Private has no knowledge of any reason why the necessary regulatory approvals and consents will not be received by Boston Private to permit consummation of the Merger and the Bank Merger on a timely basis.

3.5 Reports. Boston Private and each of its Subsidiaries have timely filed (or furnished, as applicable) all reports, forms, correspondence, registrations and statements, together with any amendments required to be made with respect thereto, that they were required to file (or furnish, as applicable) since January 1, 2018 with (i) any state regulatory authority (including any state securities commission or similar authority), (ii) the SEC, (iii) the Federal Reserve Board, (iv) the FDIC, (v) any foreign regulatory authority and (vi) any self-regulatory organization (an “SRO”) (clauses (i) – (vi), collectively “Regulatory Agencies”), including any report, form, correspondence, registration or statement required to be filed (or furnished, as applicable) pursuant to the laws, rules or regulations of the United States, any state, any foreign entity, or any Regulatory Agency, and have paid all fees and assessments due and payable in connection therewith, except where the failure to timely file (or

furnish, as applicable) such report, form, correspondence, registration or statement or to pay such fees and assessments, either individually or in the aggregate, would not reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on Boston Private. As of their respective dates, such reports, forms, correspondence, registrations and statements, and other filings, documents, and instruments were complete and accurate and complied with all applicable laws, in each case, except as would not reasonably be expected to have, either individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on Boston Private. Subject to Section 9.14, except for normal examinations conducted by a Regulatory Agency in the ordinary course of business of Boston Private and its Subsidiaries, no Regulatory Agency has pending any proceeding or, to the knowledge of Boston Private, investigation into the business or operations of Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries, except where such proceedings or investigations would not reasonably be expected to be, either individually or in the aggregate, material to Boston Private and its Subsidiaries (taken as a whole). Subject to Section 9.14, there (i) is no unresolved violation, criticism, or exception by any Regulatory Agency with respect to any report or statement relating to any examinations or inspections of Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries and (ii) has been no formal or informal inquiries by, or disagreements or disputes with, any Regulatory Agency with respect to the business, operations, policies or procedures of Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries, in each case, which would reasonably be expected to be, either individually or in the aggregate, material to Boston Private and its Subsidiaries (taken as a whole).

### 3.6 Financial Statements.

(a) The financial statements of Boston Private and its Subsidiaries included (or incorporated by reference) in the Boston Private Reports (including the related notes, where applicable) (i) have been prepared from, and are in accordance with, the books and records of Boston Private and its Subsidiaries, (ii) fairly present in all material respects the consolidated results of operations, cash flows, changes in shareholders' equity and consolidated financial position of Boston Private and its Subsidiaries for the respective fiscal periods or as of the respective dates therein set forth (subject in the case of unaudited statements to year-end audit adjustments normal in nature and amount), (iii) complied, as of their respective dates of filing with the SEC, in all material respects with applicable accounting requirements and with the published rules and regulations of the SEC with respect thereto and (iv) have been prepared in accordance with GAAP consistently applied during the periods involved, except, in each case, as indicated in such statements or in the notes thereto. The books and records of Boston Private and its Subsidiaries have since December 31, 2017 been, and are being, maintained in all material respects in accordance with GAAP and any other applicable legal and accounting requirements, except as would not reasonably be expected to have, either individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on Boston Private. Since December 31, 2017, no independent public accounting firm of Boston Private has resigned (or informed Boston Private that it intends to resign) or been dismissed as independent public accountants of Boston Private as a result of or in connection with any disagreements with Boston Private on a matter of accounting principles or practices, financial statement disclosure or auditing scope or procedure. The financial statements of Boston Private Bank included in the consolidated reports of condition and income (call reports) of Boston Private Bank complied, as of their respective dates of filing with the Federal Reserve Board and FDIC, in all material respects with applicable accounting requirements and with the published instructions of the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council with respect thereto.

(b) The allowances for loan losses and for credit losses contained in the consolidated balance sheet of Boston Private included in its Quarterly Report on 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended September 30, 2020 were established in accordance with the practices and experiences of Boston Private and its Subsidiaries, and are adequate under and in accordance with the requirements of GAAP and the applicable Governmental Entities to provide for possible losses on loans (including accrued interest receivable) and credit commitments (including stand-by letters of credit) outstanding as of the date of such balance sheet. Boston Private adopted and fully implemented CECL effective as of January 1, 2020, other than for regulatory capital purposes. As used in this Agreement, "CECL" means Current Expected Credit Losses, a new credit

loss accounting standard that was issued by the Financial Accounting Standards Boards on June 16, 2016, pursuant to Accounting Standards Update (ASU) No. 2016, Topic 326.

(c) Except as would not reasonably be expected to have, either individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on Boston Private, neither Boston Private nor any of its Subsidiaries has any liability of any nature whatsoever (whether absolute, accrued, contingent or otherwise and whether due or to become due) required by GAAP to be included on a consolidated balance sheet of Boston Private, except for those liabilities that are reflected or reserved against on the consolidated balance sheet of Boston Private included in its Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended September 30, 2020 (including any notes thereto) and for liabilities incurred in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice since September 30, 2020, or in connection with this Agreement and the transactions contemplated hereby.

(d) The records, systems, controls, data and information of Boston Private and its Subsidiaries are recorded, stored, maintained and operated under means (including any electronic, mechanical or photographic process, whether computerized or not) that are under the exclusive ownership and direct control of Boston Private or its Subsidiaries or accountants (including all means of access thereto and therefrom), except for any non-exclusive ownership and non-direct control that would not reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on Boston Private. Boston Private (i) has implemented and maintains disclosure controls and procedures and internal controls over financial reporting (as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) and (f), respectively, of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”)) to ensure that material information relating to Boston Private, including its Subsidiaries, is made known to the chief executive officer and the chief financial officer of Boston Private by others within those entities as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosures and to make the certifications required by the Exchange Act and Sections 302 and 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (the “Sarbanes-Oxley Act”), and (ii) has disclosed, based on its most recent evaluation prior to the date hereof, to Boston Private’s outside auditors and the audit committee of Boston Private’s Board of Directors (x) any significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rule 13a-15(f) of the Exchange Act) which are reasonably likely to adversely affect Boston Private’s ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information, and (y) any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in Boston Private’s internal controls over financial reporting. These disclosures were made in writing by management to Boston Private’s auditors and audit committee and true, correct and complete copies of such disclosures have been made available by Boston Private to SVB Financial. Neither Boston Private nor its independent audit firm has identified any unremediated material weakness in internal controls over financial reporting or disclosure controls and procedures. There is no reason to believe that Boston Private’s outside auditors and its chief executive officer and chief financial officer will not be able to give the certifications and attestations required pursuant to the rules and regulations adopted pursuant to Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, without qualification, when next due.

(e) Since January 1, 2018, (i) neither Boston Private nor any of its Subsidiaries, nor, to the knowledge of Boston Private, any director, officer, auditor, accountant or representative of Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries, has received or otherwise had or obtained knowledge of any material complaint, allegation, assertion or claim, whether written or, to the knowledge of Boston Private, oral, regarding the accounting or auditing practices, procedures, methodologies or methods (including with respect to loan loss reserves, write-downs, charge-offs and accruals) of Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries or their respective internal accounting controls, including any material complaint, allegation, assertion or claim that Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries has engaged in questionable accounting or auditing practices, and (ii) no employee of or attorney representing Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries, whether or not employed by Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries, has reported evidence of a material violation of securities laws or banking laws, breach of fiduciary duty or similar violation by Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries or any of their respective officers, directors, employees or agents to the Board of Directors of Boston Private or any committee thereof or the Board of Directors or similar governing body of any Boston Private Subsidiary

or any committee thereof, or to the knowledge of Boston Private, to any director or officer of Boston Private or any Boston Private Subsidiary (including pursuant to any whistleblower or similar process).

(f) As of the date of this Agreement, no executive officer of Boston Private has failed in any respect to make the certifications required of him or her under Section 302 or 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act.

3.7 Broker's Fees. With the exception of the engagement of Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC, neither Boston Private nor any Boston Private Subsidiary nor any of their respective officers or directors has employed any broker, finder or financial advisor or incurred any liability for any broker's fees, commissions or finder's fees in connection with the Merger or related transactions contemplated by this Agreement. Boston Private has disclosed to SVB Financial as of the date hereof the aggregate fees provided for in connection with the engagement by Boston Private of Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC related to the Merger and the other transactions contemplated hereunder (as well as the structure and timing for payment of such fees).

3.8 Absence of Certain Changes or Events.

(a) Since December 31, 2019, there has not been any effect, change, event, circumstance, condition, occurrence or development that has had or would reasonably be expected to have, either individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on Boston Private.

(b) Since December 31, 2019, Boston Private and its Subsidiaries have carried on their respective businesses in all material respects in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice, except for the Pandemic Measures or in connection with the transactions contemplated by this Agreement.

3.9 Legal and Regulatory Proceedings.

(a) Neither Boston Private nor any of its Subsidiaries is a party to any, and there are no outstanding or pending or, to the knowledge of Boston Private, threatened, legal, administrative, arbitral or other proceedings, claims, actions or governmental or regulatory investigations of any nature against Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries or any of their current or former directors or executive officers (i) that would reasonably be expected to have, either individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on Boston Private, or (ii) of a material nature challenging the validity or propriety of this Agreement or the transactions contemplated hereby.

(b) There is no material injunction, order, judgment, decree, or regulatory restriction imposed upon Boston Private, any of its Subsidiaries or the assets of Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries (or that, upon consummation of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement, would apply to the Surviving Corporation or any of its affiliates).

3.10 Taxes and Tax Returns.

(a) With respect to Boston Private and its Subsidiaries: (i) each of Boston Private and its Subsidiaries has duly and timely filed (including all applicable extensions) all material Tax Returns in all jurisdictions in which Tax Returns are required to be filed by it, and all such Tax Returns are true, correct and complete in all material respects; (ii) neither Boston Private nor any of its Subsidiaries is the beneficiary of any extension of time within which to file any material Tax Return (other than extensions to file Tax Returns obtained in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice); (iii) all material Taxes of Boston Private and its Subsidiaries (whether or not shown on any Tax Returns) that are due have been fully and timely paid and all Taxes required to have been collected and paid on the sale of products or Taxable services by Boston Private or its Subsidiaries (whether or not denominated as sales or use taxes) have been properly and timely collected and paid, or all sales tax exemption certificates or other proof of the exempt nature of sales of such products or services have been properly collected, retained and submitted, to the extent required; (iv) each of Boston Private and its Subsidiaries has withheld and paid all material Taxes required to have been withheld and paid in connection with amounts paid or owing to any employee, creditor, shareholder, independent contractor or other third party; (v) each of Boston Private and its

Subsidiaries has complied in all material respects with all material information reporting and withholding requirements, in respect of payments made by Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries, including maintenance of required records with respect thereto; (vi) there are no material Liens on the assets of Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries relating or attributable to Taxes other than Liens for Taxes not yet due and payable; (vii) neither Boston Private nor any of its Subsidiaries has granted any extension or waiver of the limitation period applicable to any material Tax that remains in effect; (viii) neither Boston Private nor any of its Subsidiaries has received any notice of a material assessment or proposed material assessment in connection with any amount of Taxes, and there are no threatened in writing or pending disputes, claims, audits, examinations or other proceedings regarding any material Tax of Boston Private and its Subsidiaries or the assets of Boston Private and its Subsidiaries; (ix) neither Boston Private nor any of its Subsidiaries is a party to or is bound by any material Tax sharing, allocation or indemnification agreement or arrangement (other than such an agreement or arrangement exclusively between or among Boston Private and its Subsidiaries); (x) neither Boston Private nor any of its Subsidiaries (A) has been a member of an affiliated group filing a consolidated federal income Tax Return for which the statute of limitations is open (other than a group the common parent of which was Boston Private) or (B) has any material liability for the Taxes of any person (other than Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries) under Treasury Regulation Section 1.1502-6 (or any similar provision of state, local or foreign law), as a transferee or successor, by contract or otherwise; (xi) neither Boston Private nor any of its Subsidiaries has been, within the past two (2) years or otherwise as part of a “plan (or series of related transactions)” within the meaning of Section 355(e) of the Code of which the Merger is also a part, a “distributing corporation” or a “controlled corporation” (within the meaning of Section 355(a)(1)(A) of the Code) in a distribution of stock intending to qualify for tax-free treatment under Section 355 of the Code; (xii) neither Boston Private nor any of its Subsidiaries has participated in a “listed transaction” within the meaning of Treasury Regulation Section 1.6011-4(b)(2); and (xiii) at no time during the past five (5) years has Boston Private been a United States real property holding corporation within the meaning of Section 897(c)(2) of the Code.

(b) As used in this Agreement, the term “Tax” or “Taxes” means, whether disputed or not (i) any and all U.S. federal, state, local, and non-U.S. income, excise, gross receipts, ad valorem, profits, gains, property (real, personal, tangible and intangible), capital, sales, transfer, use, license, payroll, employment, social security (including health, unemployment, disability, workers’ compensation and pension insurance), severance, unemployment, withholding, duties, excise, windfall profits, franchise, backup withholding, value added, alternative or add-on minimum, and other taxes, charges, levies or like assessments together with all penalties and additions to tax and interest thereon; (ii) any liability for the payment of any amounts of the type described in (i) above as a result of being a member of an affiliated, consolidated, combined, unitary or similar group (including any arrangement for group or consortium relief or similar arrangement) for any period, and (iii) any liability for the payment of any amounts of the type described in clauses (i) or (ii) above as a result of any express or implied obligation to indemnify any other person or as a result of any obligation under any agreement or arrangement with any other person with respect to such amounts and including any liability for Taxes of a predecessor or transferor, by contract or otherwise by operation of law.

(c) As used in this Agreement, the term “Tax Return” means any return, declaration, report, claim for refund, information return or any other document or statement relating to Taxes, including any schedule or attachment thereto, and including any amendment thereof, supplied or required to be supplied to a Governmental Entity.

### 3.11 Employees.

(a) Section 3.11(a) of the Boston Private Disclosure Schedule sets forth an accurate and complete list of each material Boston Private Benefit Plan. Each Boston Private Benefit Plan (as defined below) has been established, operated and administered in material compliance with its terms and the requirements of all applicable laws, including ERISA and the Code. For purposes of this Agreement, the term “Boston Private Benefit Plans” means all employee benefit plans (as defined in Section 3(3) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (“ERISA”)), whether or not subject to ERISA, and all

compensation plans, including all equity, bonus or incentive, deferred compensation, retiree medical or life insurance, supplemental retirement, severance, termination, change in control, retention, employment, welfare, insurance, medical, fringe or other benefit plans, programs, agreements, contracts, policies, arrangements or remuneration of any kind with respect to which Boston Private or any Subsidiary, is a party or has any current or future obligation or that are maintained, contributed to or sponsored by Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries for the benefit of any current or former employee, officer, director or independent contractor of Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries, excluding, in each case, any "multiemployer plan" within the meaning of Section 4001(a)(3) of ERISA (a "Multiemployer Plan").

(b) Boston Private has made available to SVB Financial true, correct and complete copies of each material Boston Private Benefit Plan and the following related documents, to the extent applicable: (i) all summary plan descriptions, amendments, modifications or material supplements, (ii) the most recent annual report (Form 5500) filed with the Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS"), (iii) the most recently received IRS determination letter, and (iv) the most recently prepared actuarial report.

(c) The IRS has issued a favorable determination letter or opinion with respect to each Boston Private Benefit Plan that is intended to be qualified under Section 401(a) of the Code (the "Boston Private Qualified Plans") and the related trust, which letter or opinion has not been revoked (nor has revocation been threatened), and, to the knowledge of Boston Private, there are no existing circumstances and no events have occurred that would reasonably be expected to adversely affect the qualified status of any Boston Private Qualified Plan or the related trust. With respect to each Boston Private Benefit Plan that is an "employee benefit plan" within the meaning of Section 3(3) of ERISA, neither Boston Private nor any of its Subsidiaries has engaged in a transaction in connection with which Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries reasonably could be subject to either a civil penalty assessed pursuant to Section 409 or 502(i) or ERISA or a tax imposed pursuant to Section 4975 or 4976 of the Code, except as would not reasonably be expected to be material to Boston Private and its Subsidiaries taken as a whole.

(d) With respect to each Boston Private Benefit Plan that is subject to Section 302 or Title IV of ERISA or Section 412, 430 or 4971 of the Code: (i) the minimum funding standard under Section 302 of ERISA and Sections 412 and 430 of the Code has been satisfied and no waiver of any minimum funding standard or any extension of any amortization period has been requested or granted, (ii) no such plan is in "at-risk" status for purposes of Section 430 of the Code, (iii) the present value of accrued benefits under such Boston Private Benefit Plan, based upon the actuarial assumptions used for funding purposes in the most recent actuarial report prepared by such Boston Private Benefit Plan's actuary with respect to such Boston Private Benefit Plan, did not, as of its latest valuation date, exceed the then current fair market value of the assets of such Boston Private Benefit Plan allocable to such accrued benefits, (iv) no reportable event within the meaning of Section 4043(c) of ERISA for which the 30-day notice requirement has not been waived has occurred, (v) all premiums to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (the "PBGC") have been timely paid in full, (vi) no liability (other than for premiums to the PBGC) under Title IV of ERISA has been or is expected to be incurred by Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries, and (vii) the PBGC has not instituted proceedings to terminate any such Boston Private Benefit Plan.

(e) None of Boston Private and its Subsidiaries nor any trade or business of Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries, whether or not incorporated, all of which together with Boston Private would be deemed a "single employer" within the meaning of Section 4001 of ERISA (a "Boston Private ERISA Affiliate") has, at any time during the last six (6) years, contributed (or had any obligation to contribute) to a Multiemployer Plan or a plan that has two (2) or more contributing sponsors at least two (2) of whom are not under common control, within the meaning of Section 4063 of ERISA (a "Multiple Employer Plan"), and none of Boston Private and its Subsidiaries nor any Boston Private ERISA Affiliate has incurred any liability that has not been satisfied to a Multiemployer Plan or Multiple Employer Plan as a result of a complete or partial withdrawal (as those terms are defined in Part I of Subtitle E of Title IV of ERISA) from a Multiemployer Plan or Multiple Employer Plan.

(f) Except as required by applicable law, no Boston Private Benefit Plan provides for any material post-employment or post-retirement health or medical or life insurance benefits for retired, former or current employees or beneficiaries or dependents thereof.

(g) All material contributions required to be made to any Boston Private Benefit Plan by applicable law or by any plan document or other contractual undertaking, and all material premiums due or payable with respect to insurance policies funding any Boston Private Benefit Plan, for any period through the date hereof, have been timely made or paid in full or, to the extent not required to be made or paid on or before the date hereof, have been fully reflected on the books and records of Boston Private.

(h) There are no pending or threatened claims (other than routine claims for benefits), lawsuits or arbitrations which have been asserted or instituted, and, to the knowledge of Boston Private, no set of circumstances exists which may reasonably give rise to a claim or lawsuit, against the Boston Private Benefit Plans, any fiduciaries thereof with respect to their duties to the Boston Private Benefit Plans or the assets of any of the trusts under any of the Boston Private Benefit Plans, in each case, that would reasonably be expected to result in any material liability of Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries.

(i) Neither the execution and delivery of this Agreement, shareholder or other approval of this Agreement nor the consummation of the transactions contemplated hereby will (either alone or in conjunction with any other event) result in the acceleration of vesting, exercisability, funding or delivery of, or entitle any employee, officer, director or other service provider of Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries to severance pay or increase in the amount or value of, any payment, right or other benefit to any employee, officer, director or other service provider of Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries, directly or indirectly cause Boston Private to transfer or set aside any assets to fund any material benefits under any Boston Private Benefit Plan or result in any limitation on the right of Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries to amend, merge, terminate or receive a reversion of assets from any Boston Private Benefit Plan or related trust on or after the Effective Time. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, no amount paid or payable (whether in cash, in property, or in the form of benefits) by Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries in connection with the transactions contemplated hereby (either solely as a result thereof or as a result of such transactions in conjunction with any other event) will be an "excess parachute payment" within the meaning of Section 280G of the Code.

(j) No Boston Private Benefit Plan provides for the gross-up or reimbursement of Taxes under Section 409A or 4999 of the Code, or otherwise.

(k) As of the date hereof, there are no pending or, to Boston Private's knowledge, threatened labor grievances or unfair labor practice claims or charges against Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries, or any strikes or other labor disputes against Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries. Neither Boston Private nor any of its Subsidiaries is party to or bound by any collective bargaining or similar agreement with any labor organization, or work rules or practices agreed to with any labor organization or employee association applicable to employees of Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries and, there are no pending or, to the knowledge of Boston Private, threatened organizing efforts by any union or other group seeking to represent any employees of Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries. In the last three years, (x) no allegations of sexual harassment or misconduct have been made to Boston Private against any individual in his or her capacity as (i) an officer of Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries or (ii) a member of the Board of Directors of Boston Private and (y) neither Boston Private nor any of its Subsidiaries has entered into any settlement agreements related to allegations of sexual harassment or misconduct by (i) an officer of Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries or (ii) a member of the Board of Directors of Boston Private.

(l) Boston Private is and has been in compliance in all respects with all applicable laws respecting employment and employment practices, terms and conditions of employment, collective bargaining, worker classification, disability, immigration, health and safety, wages, hours and benefits, non-discrimination in employment and workers' compensation, in each case, except as would not reasonably be expected to be material to Boston Private and its Subsidiaries taken as a whole.



3.12 SEC Reports. Boston Private has previously made available to SVB Financial an accurate and complete copy of each (a) final registration statement, prospectus, report, schedule and definitive proxy statement filed with or furnished to the SEC since December 31, 2017 by Boston Private pursuant to the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Securities Act”), or the Exchange Act (the “Boston Private Reports”), and (b) communication mailed by Boston Private to its shareholders since December 31, 2017 and prior to the date hereof, and no such Boston Private Report or communication, as of the date thereof (and, in the case of registration statements and proxy statements, on the dates of effectiveness and the dates of the relevant meetings, respectively), contained any untrue statement of a material fact or omitted to state any material fact required to be stated therein or necessary in order to make the statements therein, in light of the circumstances in which they were made, not misleading, except that information filed or furnished as of a later date (but before the date of this Agreement) shall be deemed to modify information as of an earlier date. Since December 31, 2017, as of their respective dates, all Boston Private Reports filed or furnished under the Securities Act and the Exchange Act complied in all material respects with the published rules and regulations of the SEC with respect thereto. As of the date of this Agreement, there are no outstanding comments from, or unresolved issues raised by, the SEC with respect to any of the Boston Private Reports.

3.13 Compliance with Applicable Law.

(a) Boston Private and each of its Subsidiaries hold, and have at all times since December 31, 2017, held, all licenses, registrations, franchises, certificates, variances, permits, charters and authorizations necessary for the lawful conduct of their respective businesses and ownership of their respective properties, rights and assets under and pursuant to each (and have paid all fees and assessments due and payable in connection therewith), except where neither the cost of failure to hold nor the cost of obtaining and holding such license, registration, franchise, certificate, variance, permit, charter or authorization (nor the failure to pay any fees or assessments) would, either individually or in the aggregate, reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on Boston Private, and to the knowledge of Boston Private, no suspension or cancellation of any such necessary license, registration, franchise, certificate, variance, permit, charter or authorization is threatened.

(b) Except as would not, either individually or in the aggregate, reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on Boston Private, Boston Private and each of its Subsidiaries have complied with and are not in default or violation under, and to the knowledge of Boston Private, there are no facts or circumstances that would reasonably be expected to cause Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries to violate, any applicable law, statute, order, rule, regulation, policy and/or guideline of any Governmental Entity relating to Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries. Boston Private and its Subsidiaries have established and maintain a system of internal controls designed to ensure compliance in all material respects by Boston Private and its Subsidiaries with applicable financial recordkeeping and reporting requirements of applicable money laundering prevention laws in jurisdictions where Boston Private and its Subsidiaries conduct business.

(c) Boston Private Bank is an “insured depository institution” as defined in the Federal Deposit Insurance Act of 1950 and applicable regulations thereunder. Boston Private Bank has a Community Reinvestment Act rating of “satisfactory” or better and does not expect to have a Community Reinvestment Act rating that is not at least “satisfactory”. All of the deposits held by Boston Private Bank (including the records and documentation pertaining to such deposits) have been established and are held in compliance with (i) all applicable policies, practices and procedures of Boston Private Bank, and (ii) all applicable laws, including anti-money laundering and anti-terrorism laws and sanctioned persons requirements, in each case, except as would not, individually or in the aggregate, reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on Boston Private.

(d) Boston Private maintains a written information privacy and security program and organizational, physical, administrative and technical measures regarding privacy, cyber security and data security (collectively, “Privacy and Security Policies”) that are commercially reasonable and that comply in all material respects with (i) all requirements of all applicable laws relating to the receipt, collection,

compilation, use, storage, processing, sharing, safeguarding, security (both technical and physical), encryption, disposal, destruction, disclosure or transfer (collectively, “Processing”) of Personal Data (as defined below), (ii) all of Boston Private’s and each of its Subsidiaries’ policies and notices regarding Personal Data, and (iii) all of Boston Private’s and each of its Subsidiaries’ contractual obligations with respect to the Processing of Personal Data (collectively, “Data Protection Requirements”). Boston Private maintains reasonable measures to protect the privacy, confidentiality and security of all information that identifies, could be used to identify or is otherwise associated with an individual person or device or is otherwise covered by any “personal information” or similar definition under applicable law (e.g., “personal data,” “personally identifiable information” or “PII”) (collectively “Personal Data”) against any (i) unauthorized access, loss or misuse of Personal Data, (ii) unauthorized or unlawful operations performed upon Personal Data or (iii) other act or omission that compromises the privacy, security or confidentiality of Personal Data (clauses (i) through (iii), a “Security Breach”). Boston Private has not experienced any Security Breach that would, individually or in the aggregate, reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on Boston Private or require a report to a Regulatory Agency. Within the three (3) year period prior to the date hereof, Boston Private and each of its Subsidiaries has (i) complied in all material respects with all of their respective Privacy and Security Policies and applicable Data Protection Requirements, and (ii) used commercially reasonable measures consistent with reasonable practices in the industry to ensure the confidentiality, privacy and security of Personal Data. To the knowledge of Boston Private, there are no data security or other technological vulnerabilities with respect to its information technology systems or networks that, individually or in the aggregate, would reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on Boston Private.

(e) Without limitation, none of Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries, or to the knowledge of Boston Private, any director, officer, employee, agent or other person acting on behalf of Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries has, directly or indirectly, (i) used any funds of Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries for unlawful contributions, unlawful gifts, unlawful entertainment or other expenses relating to political activity, (ii) made any unlawful payment to foreign or domestic governmental officials or employees or to foreign or domestic political parties or campaigns from funds of Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries, (iii) violated any provision that would result in the violation of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act of 1977, as amended, or any similar law, (iv) established or maintained any unlawful fund of monies or other assets of Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries, (v) made any fraudulent entry on the books or records of Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries, or (vi) made any unlawful bribe, unlawful rebate, unlawful payoff, unlawful influence payment, unlawful kickback or other unlawful payment to any person, private or public, regardless of form, whether in money, property or services, to obtain favorable treatment in securing business, to obtain special concessions for Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries, to pay for favorable treatment for business secured or to pay for special concessions already obtained for Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries, or, in the past five (5) years, has been subject to any United States sanctions administered by OFAC, except in each case as would not, either individually or in the aggregate, reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on Boston Private.

(f) As of the date hereof, each of Boston Private and Boston Private Bank is “well-capitalized” (as such term is defined in the relevant regulation of the institution’s primary federal regulator).

(g) Except as would not, either individually or in the aggregate, reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on Boston Private, (i) Boston Private Bank has complied in all material respects with all requirements of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and the Paycheck Protection Program, including applicable guidance, in connection with its participation in the Paycheck Protection Program; (ii) Boston Private and each of its Subsidiaries have properly administered all accounts for which it acts as a fiduciary, including accounts for which it serves as a trustee, agent, custodian, personal representative, guardian, conservator or investment advisor, in accordance with the terms of the governing documents and applicable state, federal and foreign law; and (iii) none of Boston Private, any of its Subsidiaries, or any of its or its Subsidiaries’ directors, officers or employees, has committed any breach of trust or fiduciary duty with respect to any such fiduciary account, and the accountings for each such

fiduciary account are true, correct and complete and accurately reflect the assets and results of such fiduciary account.

3.14 Certain Contracts.

(a) Except as set forth in Section 3.14(a) of the Boston Private Disclosure Schedule or as filed with any Boston Private Reports, as of the date hereof, neither Boston Private nor any of its Subsidiaries is a party to or bound by any contract, arrangement, commitment or understanding (whether written or oral), but excluding any Boston Private Benefit Plan:

(i) which is a “material contract” (as such term is defined in Item 601(b)(10) of Regulation S-K of the SEC);

(ii) which contains a provision that materially restricts the conduct of any line of business by Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries or upon consummation of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement will materially restrict the ability of SVB Financial or any of its affiliates to engage in any line of business or in any geographic region (including any exclusivity or exclusive dealing provisions with such an effect);

(iii) which is a collective bargaining agreement or similar agreement with any labor organization;

(iv) with any record or beneficial owner of five percent (5%) or more of the outstanding shares of Boston Private Common Stock;

(v) any of the benefits of or obligations under which will arise or be increased or accelerated by the occurrence of the execution and delivery of this Agreement, receipt of the Requisite Boston Private Vote or the announcement or consummation of any of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement, or under which a right of cancellation or termination will arise as a result thereof, or the value of any of the benefits of which will be calculated on the basis of any of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement, where such increase or acceleration of benefits or obligations, right of cancellation or termination, or change in calculation of value of benefits would, either individually or in the aggregate, reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on Boston Private;

(vi) (A) that relates to the incurrence of indebtedness by Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries, including any sale and leaseback transactions, capitalized leases and other similar financing arrangements (other than deposit liabilities, trade payables, federal funds purchased, advances and loans from the Federal Home Loan Bank and securities sold under agreements to repurchase, in each case, incurred in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice), or (B) that provides for the guarantee, support, indemnification, assumption or endorsement by Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries of, or any similar commitment by Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries with respect to, the obligations, liabilities or indebtedness of any other person, in the case of each of clauses (A) and (B), in the principal amount of \$1,000,000 or more;

(vii) that grants any right of first refusal, right of first offer or similar right with respect to any material assets, rights or properties of Boston Private or its Subsidiaries;

(viii) which creates future payment obligations in excess of \$1,000,000 per annum (other than any such contracts which are terminable by Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries on sixty (60) days or less notice without any required payment or other conditions, other than the condition of notice), other than with respect to indebtedness disclosed in any Boston Private Report(s) filed since January 1, 2020;

(ix) that is a settlement, consent or similar agreement and contains any material continuing obligations of Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries;

(x) that relates to the acquisition or disposition of any person, business or asset and under which Boston Private or its Subsidiaries have or may have a material obligation or liability; or

(xi) pursuant to which (i) any license, covenant not to sue, release, waiver, option or other right is granted under any material Intellectual Property owned by Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries, (ii) any person has granted any license, covenant not to sue, release, waiver, option or other right under any Intellectual Property to Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries that is material to their businesses, other than non-exclusive licenses for off-the-shelf Software that have been granted on standardized, generally available terms, (iii) Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries has assigned or agreed to assign any material Intellectual Property to any person, or (iv) Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries is subject to any obligation or covenant with respect to the use, licensing, enforcement, prosecution or other exploitation of any material Intellectual Property, including stand-stills, and trademark co-existence or consent contracts.

Each contract, arrangement, commitment or understanding of the type described in this Section 3.14(a), whether or not set forth in the Boston Private Disclosure Schedule, is referred to herein as a “Boston Private Contract,” and neither Boston Private nor any of its Subsidiaries knows of, or has received written, or to the knowledge of Boston Private, oral notice of, any violation of any Boston Private Contract by any of the other parties thereto which would reasonably be likely to be, either individually or in the aggregate, material to Boston Private and its Subsidiaries, taken as a whole. Boston Private has made available to SVB Financial true, correct and complete copies of each Boston Private Contract in effect as of the date hereof.

(b) (i) Each Boston Private Contract is valid and binding on Boston Private or one of its Subsidiaries, as applicable, and in full force and effect, except as, either individually or in the aggregate, would not reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on Boston Private, (ii) Boston Private and each of its Subsidiaries have in all material respects complied with and performed all obligations required to be complied with or performed by any of them to date under each Boston Private Contract, except where such noncompliance or nonperformance, either individually or in the aggregate, would not reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on Boston Private, (iii) to the knowledge of Boston Private, each third-party counterparty to each Boston Private Contract has in all material respects complied with and performed all obligations required to be complied with and performed by it to date under such Boston Private Contract, except where such noncompliance or nonperformance, either individually or in the aggregate, would not reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on Boston Private, (iv) neither Boston Private nor any of its Subsidiaries has knowledge of, or has received notice of, any violation of any Boston Private Contract by any of the other parties thereto which would reasonably be expected to have, either individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on Boston Private, and (v) no event or condition exists which constitutes or, after notice or lapse of time or both, will constitute, a material breach or default on the part of Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries, or to the knowledge of Boston Private, any other party thereto, of or under any such Boston Private Contract, except where such breach or default, either individually or in the aggregate, would not reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on Boston Private.

3.15 Agreements with Regulatory Agencies. Subject to Section 9.14, neither Boston Private nor any of its Subsidiaries is subject to any cease-and-desist or other order or enforcement action issued by, or is a party to any written agreement, consent agreement or memorandum of understanding with, or is a party to any commitment letter or similar undertaking to, or is subject to any order or directive by, or has been ordered to pay any civil money penalty by, or has been since January 1, 2018, a recipient of any supervisory letter from, or since January 1, 2018, has adopted any policies, procedures or board resolutions at the request or suggestion of, any Regulatory Agency or other Governmental Entity that restricts in any material respect or would reasonably be expected to restrict in any material respect the conduct of its business or that in any material manner relates to its capital adequacy, its ability to pay dividends, its credit or risk management policies, its management or its business (each, whether or not set forth in the Boston Private Disclosure Schedule, a “Boston Private Regulatory Agreement”), nor has Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries been advised since January 1, 2018, by any Regulatory Agency or other Governmental Entity that it is considering issuing, initiating, ordering, or requesting any such Boston Private Regulatory Agreement.

3.16 Environmental Matters. Except as would not reasonably be expected to have, either individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on Boston Private, Boston Private and its Subsidiaries are in compliance, and have complied, with any federal, state or local law, regulation, order, decree, permit, authorization, common law or agency requirement relating to: (a) the protection or restoration of the environment, health and safety as it relates to hazardous substance exposure or natural resource damages, (b) the handling, use, presence, disposal, release or threatened release of, or exposure to, any hazardous substance, or (c) noise, odor, wetlands, indoor air, pollution, contamination or any injury to persons or property from exposure to any hazardous substance (collectively, "Environmental Laws"). There are no legal, administrative, arbitral or other proceedings, claims or actions, or to the knowledge of Boston Private, any private environmental investigations or remediation activities or governmental investigations of any nature seeking to impose, or that could reasonably be expected to result in the imposition, on Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries of any liability or obligation arising under any Environmental Law pending or threatened against Boston Private, which liability or obligation would reasonably be expected to have, either individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on Boston Private. To the knowledge of Boston Private, there is no reasonable basis for any such proceeding, claim, action or governmental investigation that would impose any liability or obligation that would reasonably be expected to have, either individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on Boston Private. Boston Private is not subject to any agreement, order, judgment, decree, letter agreement or memorandum of agreement by or with any court, Governmental Entity, Regulatory Agency or other third party imposing any liability or obligation with respect to the foregoing that would reasonably be expected to have, either individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on Boston Private.

3.17 Investment Securities.

(a) Each of Boston Private and its Subsidiaries has good title to all securities and commodities owned by it (except those sold under repurchase agreements or held in any fiduciary or agency capacity), free and clear of any Lien, except to the extent such securities or commodities are pledged in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice to secure obligations of Boston Private or its Subsidiaries. Such securities are valued on the books of Boston Private in accordance with GAAP in all material respects.

(b) Boston Private and its Subsidiaries employ investment, securities, commodities, risk management and other policies, practices and procedures that Boston Private believes are prudent and reasonable in the context of their respective businesses, and Boston Private and its Subsidiaries have, since January 1, 2017, been in compliance with such policies, practices and procedures in all material respects. Prior to the date of this Agreement, Boston Private has made available to SVB Financial the material terms of such policies, practices and procedures.

(c) Neither Boston Private nor its Subsidiaries owns securities, in each case that are referred to generically as "structured notes," "high risk mortgage derivatives," "capped floating rate notes," or "capped floating rate mortgage derivatives". Except as would not reasonably be expected to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on Boston Private, each swap, cap, floor, option agreement, future and forward contract and other similar derivative transactions and risk management arrangements (each a "Derivative Transaction"), which Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries has entered into for its own account, or which Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries has agreed to enter into for its own account, was or will be entered into for *bona fide* hedging purposes and not for speculation. Each Derivative Transaction entered into for the account of Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries, or for the account of any customer thereof, and each such Derivative Transaction which Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries has agreed to enter into, (i) was or will be entered into in the ordinary course of business, in accordance with applicable rules, regulations and policies of any Governmental Entity of competent jurisdiction, with counterparties believed to be financially responsible at the time, and (ii) is in full force and effect and constitutes a valid and legally binding obligation of Boston Private or such Subsidiary, as the case may be, enforceable against such person in accordance with its terms, in each case except as enforceability may be limited by the Enforceability Exceptions. Except as would not reasonably be expected to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on Boston Private, Boston Private and its Subsidiaries have duly

performed their obligations thereunder to the extent that such obligations have accrued, and, to the knowledge of Boston Private, there are no breaches, violations or defaults or allegations or assertions of such by any party thereunder.

3.18 Real Property. Boston Private or a Boston Private Subsidiary (a) has good and marketable title to all real property reflected in the latest audited balance sheet included in the Boston Private Reports as being owned by Boston Private or a Boston Private Subsidiary or acquired after the date thereof (except properties sold or otherwise disposed of since the date thereof in the ordinary course of business) (the "Boston Private Owned Properties"), free and clear of all material Liens, except (i) statutory Liens securing payments not yet due, (ii) Liens for real property Taxes not yet due and payable, (iii) easements, rights of way, and other similar encumbrances that do not materially affect the value or use of the properties or assets subject thereto or affected thereby or otherwise materially impair business operations at such properties and (iv) such imperfections or irregularities of title or Liens as do not materially affect the value or use of the properties or assets subject thereto or affected thereby or otherwise materially impair business operations at such properties or the value or free transferability of such properties (collectively, "Permitted Encumbrances"), and (b) is the lessee of all leasehold estates reflected in the latest audited financial statements included in such Boston Private Reports or acquired after the date thereof (except for leases that have expired by their terms since the date thereof) (the "Boston Private Leased Properties") and, collectively with the Boston Private Owned Properties, the "Boston Private Real Property", free and clear of all Liens of any nature whatsoever, except for Permitted Encumbrances, and is in possession of the properties purported to be leased thereunder, and each such lease is valid without default thereunder by the lessee or, to the knowledge of Boston Private, the lessor. There are no pending or, to the knowledge of Boston Private, threatened condemnation proceedings against the Boston Private Real Property.

3.19 Intellectual Property.

(a) Section 3.19(a) of the Boston Private Disclosure Schedule sets forth a true and complete list of all Intellectual Property owned by Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries that is Registered, indicating, for each item of such Registered Intellectual Property, the registration or application number and the applicable filing jurisdiction. Except as would not, individually or in the aggregate, reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on Boston Private, Boston Private or one of its Subsidiaries is the sole and exclusive owner of the Registered Intellectual Property owned or purported to be owned by Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries, free and clear of all Liens (other than Permitted Encumbrances), and all rights in such Registered Intellectual Property are subsisting valid and enforceable. To the knowledge of Boston Private, Boston Private and its Subsidiaries own or have a valid right to use all material Intellectual Property used by any of them, all of which rights shall survive the consummation of the transactions contemplated hereby materially unchanged. For purposes of this Agreement, "Intellectual Property" means any of the following, whether or not registered, and all rights therein, arising in the U.S. or any other jurisdiction throughout the world: (i) trademarks, service marks, Internet domain names, logos, brand names, common law trademark rights, trade dress and trade names and other indicia of origin, registrations and applications for registration of the foregoing, and the goodwill associated therewith and symbolized thereby, (ii) rights in all works of inventorship, including all patents and patent applications and all divisions, continuations, continuations-in-part, reissues, reexaminations, and any extensions thereof, (iii) confidential and proprietary information, including trade secrets and know-how and (iv) websites, copyrights (including rights in works of authorship including all computer software (in object code and source code)), registrations and applications for registration of the foregoing, and all renewals, extensions, reversions and restorations thereof, and (v) any other similar intellectual property rights; and the term "Registered" means issued by, registered with, renewed by or the subject of a pending application before any Governmental Entity or internet domain name registrar.

(b) Except as set forth in Section 3.19(b) of the Boston Private Disclosure Schedule, (i) the operation of the businesses of Boston Private and its Subsidiaries as currently conducted does not infringe, misappropriate or violate the Intellectual Property of any third party, and during the three (3) years preceding the date hereof, the businesses of Boston Private and its Subsidiaries have not infringed,

misappropriated or violated the Intellectual Property of any third party, in each case, in a manner that has resulted in or is reasonably likely to result in, material liability to Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries, and (ii) to the knowledge of Boston Private, no third party is infringing, misappropriating or violating any Intellectual Property owned by Boston Private or its Subsidiaries.

(c) Except as set forth in Section 3.19(c) of the Boston Private Disclosure Schedule, neither Boston Private nor any of its Subsidiaries has received any written claim, notice, invitation to license or similar communication within the three (3) year period prior to the date hereof (i) contesting or challenging the use, validity, enforceability or ownership of any Intellectual Property material to Boston Private's or any of its Subsidiaries' respective businesses that are owned by or purported to be owned by Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries, or (ii) alleging that Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries or any of their respective products or services infringes, misappropriates or otherwise violates the Intellectual Property of any person, whether directly or indirectly.

(d) Boston Private and its Subsidiaries have taken reasonable measures to protect (i) their respective rights in the Intellectual Property owned by Boston Private or its Subsidiaries and (ii) the confidentiality of all trade secrets that are included in the Intellectual Property owned by Boston Private or its Subsidiaries and such trade secrets have not been used or disclosed to any person except pursuant to appropriate nondisclosure agreements which, to the knowledge of Boston Private, have not been breached.

(e) Each current and former employee or independent contractor of Boston Private and its Subsidiaries who made a contribution to the creation or development of any material Intellectual Property on behalf of Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries has signed an agreement that assigns to Boston Private or its applicable Subsidiary all of such employee's or independent contractor's rights in such contribution or Boston Private or its applicable Subsidiary otherwise owns all such rights as a matter of law.

(f) Neither Boston Private nor any Subsidiary has incorporated or linked to any open source or "copyleft" Software in any material proprietary Software of Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries in a manner that would require any components of such material proprietary Software owned by Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries to be licensed, disclosed or distributed to any third party under any terms, including making the source code publicly available.

(g) The IT Assets owned, used or held for use (including through cloud-based or other third party service providers) by Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries are sufficient for the current and currently anticipated needs of the businesses of Boston Private and its Subsidiaries, and in the three (3) year period prior to the date hereof, there has been no unauthorized access to or unauthorized use of (i) any such IT Assets, (ii) any information stored on or processed by such IT Assets or (iii) any confidential or proprietary information that is in Boston Private's or any of its Subsidiaries' possession or control, in each case, in a manner that, individually or in the aggregate, has resulted in or is reasonably likely to result in material liability to, or material disruption of the business operations of, Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries. As used in this Agreement, "IT Assets" means technology devices, computers, Software, servers, networks, workstations, routers, hubs, circuits, switches, data communications lines, and all other information technology equipment, and all associated documentation. As used in this Agreement, "Software" means any computer program, application, middleware, firmware, microcode and other software, including operating systems, software implementations of algorithms, models and methodologies, in each case, whether in source code, object code or other form or format, including libraries, subroutines and other components thereof, and all documentation relating thereto.

3.20 Related Party Transactions. As of the date hereof, except as set forth in any Boston Private Reports, there are no transactions or series of related transactions, agreements, arrangements or understandings, nor are there any currently proposed transactions or series of related transactions (including any transactions entered into or to be entered into in connection with the transactions contemplated hereby), between Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries, on the one hand, and any current or former director or "executive officer" (as defined in Rule 3b-7 under the Exchange Act) of Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries or any person who beneficially owns

(as defined in Rules 13d-3 and 13d-5 of the Exchange Act) five percent (5%) or more of the outstanding Boston Private Common Stock (or any of such person's immediate family members or affiliates) (other than Subsidiaries of Boston Private) on the other hand, of the type required to be reported in any Boston Private Report pursuant to Item 404 of Regulation S-K promulgated under the Exchange Act.

3.21 State Takeover Laws. The Board of Directors of Boston Private has taken all action necessary and appropriate to render Chapters 110C, 110D and 110F of the Massachusetts General Laws and any similar "moratorium," "control share," "fair price," "takeover" or "interested shareholder" law (any such laws, "Takeover Statutes") inapplicable to this Agreement and the other transactions contemplated hereby.

3.22 Reorganization. Boston Private has not taken any action and is not aware of any fact or circumstance that could reasonably be expected to prevent the Merger from qualifying as a "reorganization" within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Code.

3.23 Opinion. Prior to the execution of this Agreement, Boston Private has received an opinion (which, if initially rendered verbally, has been or will be confirmed by a written opinion, dated the same date) from Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC to the effect that, as of the date of such opinion and based on and subject to the various assumptions, procedures, matters, qualifications and limitations on the scope of the review undertaken by Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC as set forth therein, the Merger Consideration to be received by the holders of Boston Private Common Stock (other than Exception Shares) pursuant to this Agreement is fair from a financial point of view to such holders of Boston Private Common Stock. Such opinion has not been amended or rescinded as of the date of this Agreement.

3.24 Boston Private Information. The information relating to Boston Private and its Subsidiaries that is provided in writing by Boston Private or its Subsidiaries or their respective representatives specifically for inclusion in the Proxy Statement and the S-4, or in any other document filed with any other Regulatory Agency or Governmental Entity in connection herewith, will not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements therein, in light of the circumstances in which they are made, not misleading. The portion of the Proxy Statement relating to Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries will comply in all material respects with the provisions of the Exchange Act and the rules and regulations thereunder. The portion of the S-4 relating to Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries will comply in all material respects with the provisions of the Securities Act and the rules and regulations thereunder.

3.25 Loan Portfolio.

(a) As of the date hereof, except as set forth in Section 3.25(a) of the Boston Private Disclosure Schedule, neither Boston Private nor any of its Subsidiaries is a party to any written or oral loan, loan agreement, note or borrowing arrangement (including leases, credit enhancements, commitments, guarantees and interest-bearing assets) (collectively, "Loans") in which Boston Private or any Subsidiary of Boston Private is a creditor that, as of September 30, 2020, had an outstanding balance of \$1,000,000 or more and under the terms of which the obligor was, as of September 30, 2020, over ninety (90) days or more delinquent in payment of principal or interest. Set forth in Section 3.25(a) of the Boston Private Disclosure Schedule is a true, correct and complete list of (A) all the Loans of Boston Private and its Subsidiaries that, as of September 30, 2020 (x) had an outstanding balance of \$1,000,000 or more and were classified by Boston Private as "Watch List" or words of similar import, (y) had an outstanding balance of \$500,000 or more and were classified by Boston Private as "Special Mention," "Other Loans Specially Mentioned," "Criticized" or words of similar import and (z) were classified by Boston Private as "Substandard," "Doubtful," "Loss," "Classified," "Troubled Debt Restructuring" or words of similar import, in each case, together with the principal amount of and accrued and unpaid interest on each such Loan and the identity of the borrower thereunder, together with the aggregate principal amount of and accrued and unpaid interest on such Loans, by category of Loan (e.g., commercial, consumer, etc.), together with the aggregate principal amount of all such Loans by category (provided, that, in determining the aggregate principal amount of all



such Loans by category, Loans shall be included without regard to the outstanding balance amounts set forth in clauses (x) and (y) above), (B) all the Loans of Boston Private and its Subsidiaries that, as of September 30, 2020, had an outstanding balance of \$1,000,000 or more and for which interest or principal has been deferred since January 1, 2020 and (C) each asset of Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries that, as of September 30, 2020, is classified as "Other Real Estate Owned" and the book value thereof.

(b) Except as would not reasonably be expected to have, either individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on Boston Private, each Loan of Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries (i) is evidenced by notes, agreements or other evidences of indebtedness that are true, genuine and what they purport to be (without any oral amendments or modifications thereto), (ii) to the extent carried on the books and records of Boston Private and its Subsidiaries as secured Loans, has been secured by valid restrictions, claims or Liens, as applicable, which have been perfected, (iii) is the legal, valid and binding obligation of the obligor named therein, enforceable in accordance with its terms, subject to the Enforceability Exceptions and (iv) is not subject to any claim as to the enforcement which been asserted in writing against Boston Private, Boston Private Bank or such Subsidiaries for which there is a reasonable possibility of an adverse determination.

(c) Except as would not reasonably be expected to have, either individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on Boston Private, each outstanding Loan of Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries (including Loans held for resale to investors) was solicited and originated, and is and has been administered and, where applicable, serviced, and the relevant Loan files are being maintained, in all material respects in accordance with the relevant notes or other credit or security documents, the written underwriting standards of Boston Private and its Subsidiaries (and, in the case of Loans held for resale to investors, the underwriting standards, if any, of the applicable investors) and with all applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations and rules.

(d) None of the agreements pursuant to which Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries has sold Loans or pools of Loans or participations in Loans or pools of Loans contains any obligation to repurchase such Loans or interests therein solely on account of a payment default by the obligor on any such Loan.

(e) There are no outstanding Loans made by Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries to any "executive officer" or other "insider" (as each such term is defined in Regulation O promulgated by the Federal Reserve Board) of Boston Private or its Subsidiaries, other than Loans that are subject to and that were made and continue to be in compliance in all material respects with Regulation O promulgated by the Federal Reserve Board or that are exempt therefrom.

(f) Neither Boston Private, Boston Private Bank nor any of their Subsidiaries is now or has been since January 1, 2018, subject to any suspension, material fine, or settlement or other administrative agreement or sanction by, or any reduction in any loan purchase commitment from, any Governmental Entity relating to the origination, sale, or servicing of mortgage or consumer Loans.

(g) Boston Private Bank and its Subsidiaries have taken commercially reasonable steps to prepare for the cessation of publication of settings of the London Interbank Offered Rate, taking into account the size of the impacted portfolio and the expected timeframe for the cessation.

3.26 Insurance. Except as would not reasonably be expected, either individually or in the aggregate, to have a Material Adverse Effect on Boston Private: (a) Boston Private and its Subsidiaries are insured with reputable insurers against such risks and in such amounts as the management of Boston Private reasonably has determined to be prudent and consistent with industry practice, and Boston Private and its Subsidiaries are in compliance in all material respects with their insurance policies and are not in default under any of the terms thereof; (b) each such policy is outstanding and in full force and effect and, except for policies insuring against potential liabilities of officers, directors and employees of Boston Private and its Subsidiaries, Boston Private or the relevant Subsidiary thereof is the sole beneficiary of such policies, and (c) all premiums and other payments due under any such policy have been paid, and all claims thereunder have been filed in due and timely fashion. There is no material claim for coverage by Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries pending under any insurance

policy as to which coverage has been denied or disputed by the underwriters of such insurance policy. Neither Boston Private nor any of its Subsidiaries has received notice of any threatened termination of, material premium increase with respect to, or material alteration of coverage under, any insurance policies.

3.27 Investment Adviser Subsidiaries.

(a) Section 3.27 of the Boston Private Disclosure Schedule lists each Subsidiary of Boston Private that provides investment management, investment advisory or sub-advisory services (“Investment Advisory Services”) to any person (including management and advice provided to separate accounts and participation in wrap fee programs), and that is required to register with the SEC as an investment adviser under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended (the “Investment Advisers Act”) (each, an “Advisory Entity”). Each Advisory Entity is registered as an investment adviser under the Investment Advisers Act and has operated since January 1, 2017 and is currently operating in compliance with all laws applicable to it or its business and has all registrations, permits, licenses, exemptions, orders and approvals required for the operation of its business or ownership of its properties and assets substantially as presently conducted, except, in each case, as would not reasonably be expected, either individually or in the aggregate, to have a Material Adverse Effect on Boston Private. There is no action, suit, proceeding or investigation pending or, to Boston Private’s knowledge, threatened that would reasonably be expected to lead to the revocation, amendment, failure to renew, limitation, suspension or restriction of any such registrations, permits, licenses, exemptions, orders and approvals in any material respect.

(b) Each Advisory Entity has been since January 1, 2017 and is in all material respects in compliance with each contract for services provided in its capacity as an Advisory Entity to which it is a party (each such contract, an “Advisory Agreement”). Each Advisory Agreement includes all provisions required by and complies in all respects with the Investment Advisers Act, and no Advisory Entity provides Investment Advisory Services to any person other than advisory clients of the Advisory Entity and such services are in each case provided pursuant to a written Advisory Agreement.

(c) The accounts of each advisory client of Boston Private or its Subsidiaries, for purposes of the Investment Advisers Act, that are subject to ERISA have been managed by the applicable Advisory Entity in all material respects in compliance with the applicable requirements of ERISA.

(d) Each Advisory Entity has designated and approved an appropriate chief compliance officer in accordance with Rule 206(4)-7 under the Investment Advisers Act. Each Advisory Entity has established in compliance with requirements of applicable law, and maintained in effect at all times required by applicable law since January 1, 2017, (i) written policies and procedures reasonably designed to prevent violation, by the Advisory Entity and its supervised persons, of the Investment Advisers Act and the rules thereunder (ii) written anti-money laundering policies and procedures that incorporate, among other things, a written customer identification program, (iii) a code of ethics and a written policy regarding insider trading and the protection of material non-public information, (iv) written cyber security and identity theft policies and procedures, (v) written supervisory procedures and a supervisory control system, (vi) written policies and procedures designed to protect non-public personal information about customers, clients and other third parties, (vii) written recordkeeping policies and procedures and (viii) other policies required to be maintained by such Advisory Entity under applicable law, including Rules 204A-1 and 206(4)-7 under the Investment Advisers Act, except, in each case under clauses (i)-(viii), as would not reasonably be expected to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on Boston Private.

(e) With respect to each Advisory Entity, except as would not reasonably be expected to be, individually or in the aggregate, material to such Advisory Entity, (i) none of such Advisory Entity, its control persons, its directors, officers or employees (other than employees whose functions are solely clerical or ministerial), nor, to the knowledge of Boston Private, any of such Advisory Entity’s other “associated persons” (as defined in the Investment Advisers Act) is (A) subject to ineligibility pursuant to Section 203 of the Investment Advisers Act to serve as a registered investment adviser or as an “associated person” of a registered investment adviser, (B) subject to ineligibility pursuant to Section 9(a) of the

Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “Investment Company Act”) to serve as investment adviser of an investment company registered under the Investment Company Act, (C) subject to disqualification pursuant to Rule 206(4)-3 under the Investment Advisers Act or (D) subject to disqualification under Rule 506(d) of Regulation D under the Securities Act, unless in the case of clause (A), (B), (C) or (D), such Advisory Entity or “associated person” has received effective exemptive relief from the SEC with respect to such ineligibility or disqualification, nor (ii) is there any proceeding pending or, to the knowledge of Boston Private, threatened in writing by any Governmental Entity that would reasonably be expected to result in the ineligibility or disqualification of such Advisory Entity, or any of its “associated persons” to serve in such capacities or that would provide a basis for such ineligibility or disqualification which would reasonably be expected to be, individually or in the aggregate, material to Boston Private.

(f) Except as would not reasonably be expected to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on Boston Private, there are no unresolved issues with the SEC with respect to any Advisory Entity.

(g) As of the date hereof, each Advisory Entity is not currently subject to, and has not received written notice of, an examination, inspection, investigation or inquiry by a Governmental Entity.

(h) No Advisory Entity is prohibited from charging fees to any person pursuant to Rule 206(4)-5 under the Investment Advisers Act or any similar “pay-to-play” rule or requirement, except as would not reasonably be expected to have, individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on Boston Private.

(i) Boston Private has made available to SVB Financial true and complete copies of each Uniform Application for Investment Adviser Registration on Form ADV filed since January 1, 2017 by each Advisory Entity, including any predecessor or constituent entities of an Advisory Entity, that is required to be registered as an investment adviser under the Investment Advisers Act, reflecting all amendments thereto to the date hereof (each a “Form ADV”). The Forms ADV are in compliance in all material respects with the applicable requirements of the Investment Advisers Act. Since January 1, 2017, each Advisory Entity has made available to each advisory client its Form ADV to the extent required by the Investment Advisers Act. Boston Private has made available to SVB Financial true and complete copies of all deficiency letters and inspection reports or similar documents furnished to any Advisory Entity by the SEC since January 1, 2017 and the Advisory Entity’s responses thereto, if any.

3.28 Volcker Rule. Boston Private and its Subsidiaries do not engage in “proprietary trading” (as defined in 12 U.S.C. § 1851 and the regulations promulgated by the Federal Reserve Board in connection therewith (the “Volcker Rule”)) or hold any ownership interest in or sponsor any “covered fund” (as defined in the Volcker Rule).

3.29 No Other Representations or Warranties.

(a) Except for the representations and warranties made by Boston Private in this Article III, neither Boston Private nor any other person makes any express or implied representation or warranty with respect to Boston Private, its Subsidiaries, or their respective businesses, operations, assets, liabilities, conditions (financial or otherwise) or prospects, and Boston Private hereby disclaims any such other representations or warranties. In particular, without limiting the foregoing disclaimer, neither Boston Private nor any other person makes or has made any representation or warranty to SVB Financial or any of their respective affiliates or representatives with respect to (i) any financial projection, forecast, estimate, budget or prospective information relating to Boston Private, any of its Subsidiaries or their respective businesses or (ii) except for the representations and warranties made by Boston Private in this Article III, any oral or written information presented to SVB Financial or any of its affiliates or representatives in the course of their due diligence investigation of Boston Private, the negotiation of this Agreement or in the course of the transactions contemplated hereby.

(b) Boston Private acknowledges and agrees that neither SVB Financial nor any other person has made or is making any express or implied representation or warranty other than those contained in Article IV.

#### ARTICLE IV

##### REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES OF SVB FINANCIAL

Except (i) as disclosed in the disclosure schedule delivered by SVB Financial to Boston Private concurrently herewith (the “SVB Financial Disclosure Schedule”), provided, that (a) no such item is required to be set forth as an exception to a representation or warranty if its absence would not result in the related representation or warranty being deemed untrue or incorrect, (b) the mere inclusion of an item in the SVB Financial Disclosure Schedule as an exception to a representation or warranty shall not be deemed an admission by SVB Financial that such item represents a material exception or fact, event or circumstance or that such item is reasonably expected to have a Material Adverse Effect, and (c) any disclosures made with respect to a section of this Article IV shall be deemed to qualify (1) any other section of this Article IV specifically referenced or cross-referenced and (2) other sections of this Article IV to the extent it is reasonably apparent on its face (notwithstanding the absence of a specific reference or cross reference) from a reading of the disclosure that such disclosure applies to such other sections or (ii) as disclosed in any SVB Financial Reports filed by SVB Financial since December 31, 2018, and prior to the date hereof (but disregarding risk factor disclosures contained under the heading “Risk Factors,” or disclosures of risks set forth in any “forward-looking statements” disclaimer or any other statements that are similarly non-specific or cautionary, predictive or forward-looking in nature), SVB Financial hereby represents and warrants to Boston Private as follows:

##### 4.1 Corporate Organization.

(a) SVB Financial is a corporation duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of the State of Delaware and is a bank holding company duly registered under the BHC Act that has elected to be treated as financial holding company under the BHC Act. SVB Financial has the corporate power and authority to own, lease or operate all its properties and assets and to carry on its business as it is now being conducted in all material respects. SVB Financial is duly licensed or qualified to do business and in good standing in each jurisdiction in which the nature of the business conducted by it or the character or location of the properties and assets owned, leased or operated by it makes such licensing, qualification or standing necessary, except where the failure to be so licensed or qualified or to be in good standing would not, either individually or in the aggregate, reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on SVB Financial. True and complete copies of the SVB Financial Certificate and SVB Financial Bylaws, as in effect as of the date of this Agreement, have previously been made available by SVB Financial to Boston Private.

(b) SVB Bank (i) is duly organized and validly existing under the laws of its jurisdiction of organization, (ii) is duly licensed or qualified to do business and, where such concept is recognized under applicable law, in good standing in all jurisdictions (whether federal, state, local or foreign) where its ownership, leasing or operation of property or the conduct of its business requires it to be so licensed or qualified and in which the failure to be so licensed or qualified or in good standing would reasonably be expected, either individually or in the aggregate, to have a Material Adverse Effect on SVB Financial and (iii) has all requisite corporate power and authority to own, lease or operate its properties and assets and to carry on its business as now conducted, except where the failure to have such corporate power or authority would not, individually or in the aggregate, reasonably be expected to be material to SVB Financial and its Subsidiaries, taken as a whole. There are no restrictions on the ability of SVB Bank to pay dividends or distributions except for restrictions on dividends or distributions generally applicable to all such regulated entities under applicable law. The deposit accounts of SVB Bank are insured by the FDIC through the Deposit Insurance Fund (as defined in Section 3(y) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act of 1950) to the

fullest extent permitted by law, all premiums and assessments required to be paid in connection therewith have been paid when due, and no proceedings for the termination of such insurance are pending or, to SVB Financial's knowledge, threatened. There are no Subsidiaries of SVB Financial other than SVB Bank that have or are required to have deposit insurance.

#### 4.2 Capitalization.

(a) The authorized capital stock of SVB Financial consists of 150,000,000 shares of SVB Financial Common Stock and 20,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.001 per share. As of November 30, 2020, there were (i) 51,831,667 shares of SVB Financial Common Stock issued and outstanding; (ii) 112,020 shares of SVB Financial Common Stock granted in respect of outstanding awards of restricted SVB Financial Common Stock under a SVB Financial equity incentive plan (a "SVB Financial Restricted Stock Award"); (iii) 564,287 shares of SVB Financial Common Stock reserved for issuance upon the exercise of outstanding stock options to purchase shares of SVB Financial Common Stock ("SVB Financial Stock Options"); (iv) 723,014 shares of SVB Financial Common Stock reserved for issuance upon the settlement of outstanding SVB Financial RSU Awards; (v) 128,522 shares of SVB Financial Common Stock reserved for issuance upon the settlement of outstanding performance-based restricted stock units in respect of shares of SVB Financial Common Stock ("SVB Financial PSU Award") (assuming performance goals are satisfied at the target level) or 192,783 shares of SVB Financial Common Stock reserved for issuance upon the settlement of outstanding SVB Financial PSU Awards (assuming performance goals are satisfied at the maximum level); and (vi) 1,244,434 shares of SVB Financial Common Stock reserved for issuance under the SVB Financial 1999 Employee Stock Purchase Plan, as amended and restated ("SVB Financial ESPP"). As of the date of this Agreement, except as set forth in the immediately preceding sentence, for changes since November 30, 2020 resulting from the exercise, vesting or settlement of any SVB Financial Restricted Stock Award, SVB Financial Stock Option, SVB Financial RSU Award or SVB Financial PSU Award, and accumulated contributions to purchase shares of SVB Financial Common Stock under the SVB Financial ESPP described in the immediately preceding sentence and shares of SVB Financial Common Stock reserved for issuance pursuant to future grants under the SVB Financial equity incentive plans, there are no shares of SVB Financial Common Stock issued, reserved for issuance or outstanding. All the issued and outstanding shares of SVB Financial Common Stock have been duly authorized and validly issued and are fully paid, nonassessable and free of preemptive rights, with no personal liability attaching to the ownership thereof. Other than SVB Financial Restricted Stock Awards, SVB Financial Stock Options, SVB Financial PSU Awards and accumulated contributions to purchase shares of SVB Financial Common Stock under the SVB Financial ESPP as described in this Section 4.2(a) and SVB Financial's 5.250% Fixed-Rate Non-Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series A ("Series A Preferred Stock"), and depository shares, each representing 1/40th interest in a share of Series A Preferred Stock, as of the date of this Agreement there are no outstanding subscriptions, options, warrants, stock appreciation rights, phantom units, scrip, rights to subscribe to, preemptive rights, anti-dilutive rights, rights of first refusal or similar rights, puts, calls, commitments or agreements of any character relating to, or securities or rights convertible or exchangeable into or exercisable for, shares of capital stock or other voting or equity securities of or ownership interests in SVB Financial, or contracts, commitments, understandings or arrangements by which SVB Financial may become bound to issue additional shares of capital stock or other voting or equity securities of or ownership interest in SVB Financial, or that otherwise obligate SVB Financial to issue, transfer, sell, purchase, redeem or otherwise acquire, any of the foregoing.

(b) SVB Financial owns, directly or indirectly, all of the issued and outstanding shares of capital stock or other equity ownership interests of each Subsidiary of SVB Financial, free and clear of any Liens, and all of such shares or equity ownership interests are duly authorized and validly issued and are fully paid, nonassessable (except, with respect to Subsidiaries of SVB Financial that are depository institutions, as provided under any provision of applicable state law comparable to 12 U.S.C. § 55) and free of preemptive rights, with no personal liability attaching to the ownership thereof. SVB Bank does not have and is not bound by any outstanding subscriptions, options, warrants, calls, rights, commitments or agreements of any character calling for the purchase or issuance of any shares of capital stock or any other equity security of

SVB Bank or any securities representing the right to purchase or otherwise receive any shares of capital stock or other equity security of SVB Bank.

4.3 Authority; No Violation.

(a) SVB Financial has full corporate power and authority to execute and deliver this Agreement and to consummate the transactions contemplated hereby. The execution and delivery of this Agreement and the consummation of the Merger have been duly and validly approved by the Board of Directors of SVB Financial. Except for the approval of the Bank Merger Agreement by the board of directors of SVB Bank and SVB Financial as SVB Bank's sole shareholder, no other corporate proceedings on the part of SVB Financial are necessary to approve this Agreement or to consummate the transactions contemplated hereby. This Agreement has been duly and validly executed and delivered by SVB Financial and (assuming due authorization, execution and delivery by Boston Private) constitutes a valid and binding obligation of SVB Financial, enforceable against SVB Financial in accordance with its terms (except in all cases as such enforceability may be limited by the Enforceability Exceptions). The shares of SVB Financial Common Stock to be issued in the Merger have been validly authorized and, when issued, will be validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable, and no current or past shareholder of SVB Financial will have any preemptive right or similar rights in respect thereof.

(b) Neither the execution and delivery of this Agreement by SVB Financial, nor the consummation by SVB Financial of the transactions contemplated hereby (including the Merger and the Bank Merger), nor compliance by SVB Financial with any of the terms or provisions hereof, will (i) violate any provision of the SVB Financial Certificate or the SVB Financial Bylaws or (ii) assuming that the consents and approvals referred to in Section 4.4 are duly obtained, (x) violate any law, statute, code, ordinance, rule, regulation, judgment, order, writ, decree or injunction applicable to SVB Financial, any of its Subsidiaries or any of their respective properties or assets or (y) violate, conflict with, result in a breach of any provision of or the loss of any benefit under, constitute a default (or an event which, with notice or lapse of time, or both, would constitute a default) under, result in the termination of or a right of termination or cancellation under, accelerate the performance required by, or result in the creation of any Lien upon any of the respective properties or assets of SVB Financial or any of its Subsidiaries under, any of the terms, conditions or provisions of any note, bond, mortgage, indenture, deed of trust, license, lease, agreement or other instrument or obligation to which SVB Financial or any of its Subsidiaries is a party, or by which they or any of their respective properties or assets may be bound, except (in the case of clauses (x) and (y) above) for such violations, conflicts, breaches, defaults, terminations, cancellations, accelerations or creations that, either individually or in the aggregate, would not reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on SVB Financial.

4.4 Consents and Approvals. Except for (a) the filing of any required applications, filings and notices, as applicable, with the NASDAQ Stock Market, LLC, (b) the filing of any required applications, filings and notices, as applicable, with the Federal Reserve Board under the BHC Act and approval of such applications, filings and notices, (c) the filing of any required applications, filings and notices, as applicable, with the Federal Reserve Board under the Bank Merger Act, and approval of such applications, filings and notices, (d) the filing of any required applications, filings and notices, as applicable, with the California Department of Financial Protection and Innovation and the Massachusetts Commissioner of Banks, and approval of such applications, filings and notices, including the making of any arrangements with the Massachusetts Housing Partnership Fund necessary to obtain approval of the Massachusetts Commissioner of Banks, (e) those additional applications, filings and notices, if any, listed on Section 3.4 of the Boston Private Disclosure Schedule or Section 4.4 of the SVB Financial Disclosure Schedule and approval of such applications, filings and notices, (f) the filing with the SEC of the Proxy Statement and the S-4, and the declaration by the SEC of the effectiveness of the S-4, (g) the filing of the proxy solicitation and other advisory client materials for any Public Funds with the SEC, as contemplated by Section 6.18, (h) the filing of the Certificate of Merger with the Delaware Secretary pursuant to the DGCL, the filing of the Articles of Merger with the Massachusetts Secretary pursuant to the MBCA and the filing of the Bank Merger Certificates with the applicable Governmental Entities as required by applicable law, and (i) such

filings and approvals as are required to be made or obtained under the securities or "Blue Sky" laws of various states in connection with the issuance of the shares of SVB Financial Common Stock pursuant to this Agreement and the approval of the listing of such SVB Financial Common Stock on the NASDAQ, no consents or approvals or filings or registrations with any Governmental Entity are necessary in connection with (A) the execution and delivery by SVB Financial of this Agreement or (B) the consummation by SVB Financial of the Merger and the other transactions contemplated hereby (including the Bank Merger). As of the date hereof, SVB Financial has no knowledge of any reason why the necessary regulatory approvals and consents will not be received by SVB Financial to permit consummation of the Merger and the Bank Merger on a timely basis.

4.5 Reports. SVB Financial and each of its Subsidiaries have timely filed (or furnished, as applicable) all reports, forms, correspondence, registrations and statements, together with any amendments required to be made with respect thereto, that they were required to file (or furnish, as applicable) since January 1, 2018 with any Regulatory Agencies, including any report, form, correspondence, registration or statement required to be filed (or furnished, as applicable) pursuant to the laws, rules or regulations of the United States, any state, any foreign entity, or any Regulatory Agency, and have paid all fees and assessments due and payable in connection therewith, except where the failure to timely file (or furnish, as applicable) such report, form, correspondence, registration or statement or to pay such fees and assessments, either individually or in the aggregate, would not reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on SVB Financial. As of their respective dates, such reports, forms, correspondence, registrations and statements, and other filings, documents, and instruments were complete and accurate and complied with all applicable laws, in each case, except as would not reasonably be expected to have, either individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on SVB Financial. Subject to Section 9.14, except for normal examinations conducted by a Regulatory Agency in the ordinary course of business of SVB Financial and its Subsidiaries, no Regulatory Agency has pending any proceeding or, to the knowledge of SVB Financial, investigation into the business or operations of SVB Financial or any of its Subsidiaries, except where such proceedings or investigations would not reasonably be expected to be, either individually or in the aggregate, material to SVB Financial and its Subsidiaries (taken as a whole). Subject to Section 9.14, there (i) is no unresolved violation, criticism, or exception by any Regulatory Agency with respect to any report or statement relating to any examinations or inspections of SVB Financial or any of its Subsidiaries and (ii) has been no formal or informal inquiries by, or disagreements or disputes with, any Regulatory Agency with respect to the business, operations, policies or procedures of SVB Financial or any of its Subsidiaries, in each case, which would reasonably be expected to be, either individually or in the aggregate, material to SVB Financial and its Subsidiaries (taken as a whole).

#### 4.6 Financial Statements.

(a) The financial statements of SVB Financial and its Subsidiaries included (or incorporated by reference) in the SVB Financial Reports (including the related notes, where applicable) (i) have been prepared from, and are in accordance with, the books and records of SVB Financial and its Subsidiaries, (ii) fairly present in all material respects the consolidated results of operations, cash flows, changes in stockholders' equity and consolidated financial position of SVB Financial and its Subsidiaries for the respective fiscal periods or as of the respective dates therein set forth (subject in the case of unaudited statements to year-end audit adjustments normal in nature and amount), (iii) complied, as of their respective dates of filing with the SEC, in all material respects with applicable accounting requirements and with the published rules and regulations of the SEC with respect thereto, and (iv) have been prepared in accordance with GAAP consistently applied during the periods involved, except, in each case, as indicated in such statements or in the notes thereto. The books and records of SVB Financial and its Subsidiaries have since December 31, 2017, been, and are being, maintained in all material respects in accordance with GAAP and any other applicable legal and accounting requirements, except as would not reasonably be expected to have, either individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on SVB Financial. Since December 31, 2018, no independent public accounting firm of SVB Financial has resigned (or informed SVB Financial that it intends to resign) or been dismissed as independent public accountants of SVB Financial as a result of or in connection with any disagreements with SVB Financial on a matter of accounting principles or practices, financial statement disclosure or auditing scope or procedure.

(b) Except as would not reasonably be expected to have, either individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on SVB Financial, neither SVB Financial nor any of its Subsidiaries has any liability of any nature whatsoever (whether absolute, accrued, contingent or otherwise and whether due or to become due) required by GAAP to be included on a consolidated balance sheet of SVB Financial, except for those liabilities that are reflected or reserved against on the consolidated balance sheet of SVB Financial included in its Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended September 30, 2020 (including any notes thereto) and for liabilities incurred in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice since September 30, 2020, or in connection with this Agreement and the transactions contemplated hereby.

(c) The records, systems, controls, data and information of SVB Financial and its Subsidiaries are recorded, stored, maintained and operated under means (including any electronic, mechanical or photographic process, whether computerized or not) that are under the exclusive ownership and direct control of SVB Financial or its Subsidiaries or accountants (including all means of access thereto and therefrom), except for any non-exclusive ownership and non-direct control that would not reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on SVB Financial. SVB Financial has implemented and maintains disclosure controls and procedures and internal controls over financial reporting (as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) and (f), respectively, of the Exchange Act) to ensure that material information relating to SVB Financial, including its Subsidiaries, is made known to the chief executive officer and the chief financial officer of SVB Financial by others within those entities as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosures and to make the certifications required by the Exchange Act and Sections 302 and 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act. Neither SVB Financial nor its independent audit firm has identified any unremediated material weakness in internal controls over financial reporting or disclosure controls and procedures. There is no reason to believe that SVB Financial's outside auditors and its chief executive officer and chief financial officer will not be able to give the certifications and attestations required pursuant to the rules and regulations adopted pursuant to Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, without qualification, when next due.

(d) Since January 1, 2019, (i) neither SVB Financial nor any of its Subsidiaries, nor, to the knowledge of SVB Financial, any director, officer, auditor, accountant or representative of SVB Financial or any of its Subsidiaries, has received or otherwise had or obtained knowledge of any material complaint, allegation, assertion or claim, whether written or, to the knowledge of SVB Financial, oral, regarding the accounting or auditing practices, procedures, methodologies or methods (including with respect to loan loss reserves, write-downs, charge-offs and accruals) of SVB Financial or any of its Subsidiaries or their respective internal accounting controls, including any material complaint, allegation, assertion or claim that SVB Financial or any of its Subsidiaries has engaged in questionable accounting or auditing practices, and (ii) no employee of or attorney representing SVB Financial or any of its Subsidiaries, whether or not employed by SVB Financial or any of its Subsidiaries, has reported evidence of a material violation of securities laws or banking laws, breach of fiduciary duty or similar violation by SVB Financial or any of its Subsidiaries or any of their respective officers, directors, employees or agents to the Board of Directors of SVB Financial or any committee thereof or the Board of Directors or similar governing body of any Subsidiary of SVB Financial or any committee thereof, or to the knowledge of SVB Financial, to any director or officer of SVB Financial or any Subsidiary of SVB Financial (including pursuant to any whistleblower or similar process).

(e) As of the date of this Agreement, no executive officer of SVB Financial has failed in any respect to make the certifications required of him or her under Section 302 or 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act.

4.7 Broker's Fees. With the exception of the engagement of Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC, neither SVB Financial nor any Subsidiary of SVB Financial nor any of their respective officers or directors has employed any broker, finder or financial advisor or incurred any liability for any broker's fees, commissions or finder's fees in connection with the Merger or related transactions contemplated by this Agreement.



4.8 Absence of Certain Changes or Events. Since December 31, 2019, there has not been any effect, change, event, circumstance, condition, occurrence or development that has had or would reasonably be expected to have, either individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on SVB Financial.

4.9 Legal and Regulatory Proceedings.

(a) Neither SVB Financial nor any of its Subsidiaries is a party to any, and there are no outstanding or pending or, to the knowledge of SVB Financial, threatened, legal, administrative, arbitral or other proceedings, claims, actions or governmental or regulatory investigations of any nature against SVB Financial or any of its Subsidiaries or any of their current or former directors or executive officers (i) that would reasonably be expected to have, either individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on SVB Financial, or (ii) of a material nature challenging the validity or propriety of this Agreement or the transactions contemplated hereby.

(b) There is no material injunction, order, judgment, decree, or regulatory restriction imposed upon SVB Financial, any of its Subsidiaries or the assets of SVB Financial or any of its Subsidiaries (or that, upon consummation of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement, would apply to the Surviving Corporation or any of its affiliates).

4.10 SEC Reports. SVB Financial has previously made available to Boston Private an accurate and complete copy of each (a) final registration statement, prospectus, report, schedule and definitive proxy statement filed with or furnished to the SEC since December 31, 2017 by SVB Financial pursuant to the Securities Act or the Exchange Act (the "SVB Financial Reports"), and (b) communication mailed by SVB Financial to its shareholders since December 31, 2017 and prior to the date hereof, and no such SVB Financial Report or communication, as of the date thereof (and, in the case of registration statements and proxy statements, on the dates of effectiveness and the dates of the relevant meetings, respectively), contained any untrue statement of a material fact or omitted to state any material fact required to be stated therein or necessary in order to make the statements therein, in light of the circumstances in which they were made, not misleading, except that information filed or furnished as of a later date (but before the date of this Agreement) shall be deemed to modify information as of an earlier date. Since December 31, 2017, as of their respective dates, all SVB Financial Reports filed or furnished under the Securities Act and the Exchange Act complied in all material respects with the published rules and regulations of the SEC with respect thereto. As of the date of this Agreement, there are no outstanding comments from, or unresolved issues raised by, the SEC with respect to any of the SVB Financial Reports.

4.11 Compliance with Applicable Law.

(a) SVB Financial and each of its Subsidiaries hold, and have at all times since December 31, 2017, held, all licenses, registrations, franchises, certificates, variances, permits, charters and authorizations necessary for the lawful conduct of their respective businesses and ownership of their respective properties, rights and assets under and pursuant to each (and have paid all fees and assessments due and payable in connection therewith), except where neither the cost of failure to hold nor the cost of obtaining and holding such license, registration, franchise, certificate, variance, permit, charter or authorization (nor the failure to pay any fees or assessments) would, either individually or in the aggregate, reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on SVB Financial, and to the knowledge of SVB Financial, no suspension or cancellation of any such necessary license, registration, franchise, certificate, variance, permit, charter or authorization is threatened.

(b) Except as would not, either individually or in the aggregate, reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on SVB Financial, SVB Financial and each of its Subsidiaries have complied with and are not in default or violation under, and to the knowledge of SVB Financial, there are no facts or circumstances that would reasonably be expected to cause SVB Financial or any of its Subsidiaries to violate, any applicable law, statute, order, rule, regulation, policy and/or guideline of any Governmental Entity relating to SVB Financial or any of its Subsidiaries. SVB Financial and its Subsidiaries have

established and maintain a system of internal controls designed to ensure compliance in all material respects by SVB Financial and its Subsidiaries with applicable financial recordkeeping and reporting requirements of applicable money laundering prevention laws in jurisdictions where SVB Financial and its Subsidiaries conduct business.

(c) SVB Bank is an “insured depository institution” as defined in the Federal Deposit Insurance Act of 1950 and applicable regulations thereunder. As of the date hereof, each of SVB Financial and SVB Bank is “well-capitalized” (as such term is defined in the relevant regulation of the institution’s primary federal regulator). SVB Bank has a Community Reinvestment Act rating of “satisfactory” or better and does not expect to have a Community Reinvestment Act rating that is not at least “satisfactory”.

4.12 Agreements with Regulatory Agencies. Subject to Section 9.14, neither SVB Financial nor any of its Subsidiaries is subject to any cease-and-desist or other order or enforcement action issued by, or is a party to any written agreement, consent agreement or memorandum of understanding with, or is a party to any commitment letter or similar undertaking to, or is subject to any order or directive by, or has been ordered to pay any civil money penalty by, or has been since January 1, 2018, a recipient of any supervisory letter from, or since January 1, 2018, has adopted any policies, procedures or board resolutions at the request or suggestion of any Regulatory Agency or other Governmental Entity that restricts in any material respect or would reasonably be expected to restrict in any material respect the conduct of its business or that in any material manner relates to its capital adequacy, its ability to pay dividends, its credit or risk management policies, its management or its business (each, whether or not set forth in the SVB Financial Disclosure Schedule, a “SVB Financial Regulatory Agreement”), nor has SVB Financial or any of its Subsidiaries been advised since January 1, 2018, by any Regulatory Agency or other Governmental Entity that it is considering issuing, initiating, ordering or requesting any such SVB Financial Regulatory Agreement.

4.13 Reorganization. SVB Financial has not taken any action and is not aware of any fact or circumstance that could reasonably be expected to prevent the Merger from qualifying as a “reorganization” within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Code.

4.14 SVB Financial Information. The information relating to SVB Financial and its Subsidiaries that is provided in writing by SVB Financial or its Subsidiaries or their respective representatives specifically for inclusion in the Proxy Statement and the S-4, or in any other document filed with any other Regulatory Agency or Governmental Entity in connection herewith, will not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements therein, in light of the circumstances in which they are made, not misleading. The portion of the Proxy Statement relating to SVB Financial and its Subsidiaries will comply in all material respects with the provisions of the Exchange Act and the rules and regulations thereunder. The portion of the S-4 relating to SVB Financial or any of its Subsidiaries will comply in all material respects with the provisions of the Securities Act and the rules and regulations thereunder.

4.15 No Other Representations or Warranties.

(a) Except for the representations and warranties made by SVB Financial in this Article IV, neither SVB Financial nor any other person makes any express or implied representation or warranty with respect to SVB Financial, its Subsidiaries, or their respective businesses, operations, assets, liabilities, conditions (financial or otherwise) or prospects, and SVB Financial hereby disclaims any such other representations or warranties. In particular, without limiting the foregoing disclaimer, neither SVB Financial nor any other person makes or has made any representation or warranty to Boston Private or any of its affiliates or representatives with respect to (i) any financial projection, forecast, estimate, budget or prospective information relating to SVB Financial, any of its Subsidiaries or their respective businesses or (ii) except for the representations and warranties made by SVB Financial in this Article IV, any oral or written information presented to Boston Private or any of its affiliates or representatives in the course of their due diligence investigation of SVB Financial, the negotiation of this Agreement or in the course of the transactions contemplated hereby.

(b) SVB Financial acknowledges and agrees that neither Boston Private nor any other person has made or is making any express or implied representation or warranty other than those contained in Article III.

## ARTICLE V

### COVENANTS RELATING TO CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

5.1 Conduct of Business of Boston Private Prior to the Effective Time. During the period from the date of this Agreement to the Effective Time or earlier termination of this Agreement, except as expressly contemplated or permitted by this Agreement (including as set forth in the Boston Private Disclosure Schedule), required by law (including the Pandemic Measures) or as consented to in writing by SVB Financial (such consent not to be unreasonably withheld, conditioned or delayed), (i) Boston Private shall, and shall cause its Subsidiaries to, (a) conduct its business only in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice and (b) use reasonable best efforts to maintain and preserve intact its business organization, employees and advantageous business relationships, and (ii) Boston Private shall, and shall cause its Subsidiaries to, take no action that would reasonably be expected to adversely affect or materially delay the ability to obtain any necessary approvals of any Regulatory Agency or other Governmental Entity required for the transactions contemplated hereby or to perform Boston Private's covenants and agreements under this Agreement or to consummate the transactions contemplated hereby on a timely basis. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary set forth in this Section 5.1 or Section 5.2, Boston Private and its Subsidiaries may take any commercially reasonable actions that Boston Private reasonably determines are necessary or prudent to take in response to the COVID-19 pandemic or the Pandemic Measures; provided that Boston Private shall provide prior notice to and consult with SVB Financial in good faith to the extent such actions would otherwise require consent of SVB Financial under this Section 5.1 or Section 5.2 or would have a material impact on Boston Private or any Boston Private Subsidiary.

5.2 Boston Private Forbearances. During the period from the date of this Agreement to the Effective Time or earlier termination of this Agreement, except as set forth in the Boston Private Disclosure Schedule, as expressly contemplated or permitted by this Agreement or as required by law (including the Pandemic Measures), Boston Private shall not, and shall not permit any of its Subsidiaries to, without the prior written consent of SVB Financial (such consent not to be unreasonably withheld, conditioned or delayed):

(a) other than (i) federal funds borrowings and Federal Home Loan Bank borrowings, in each case, with a maturity not in excess of six months, (ii) deposits, (iii) issuances of letters of credit, (iv) purchases of federal funds, (v) sales of certificates of deposit and (vi) entry into repurchase agreements, in each case, in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice, incur any indebtedness for borrowed money (other than indebtedness of Boston Private or any of its wholly owned Subsidiaries to Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries), assume, guarantee, endorse or otherwise as an accommodation become responsible for the obligations of any other person (other than any Subsidiary of Boston Private);

(b) (i) adjust, split, combine or reclassify any capital stock;

(ii) make, declare, pay or set a record date for any dividend, or any other distribution on, or directly or indirectly redeem, purchase or otherwise acquire, any shares of its capital stock or other equity or voting securities or any securities or obligations convertible (whether currently convertible or convertible only after the passage of time or the occurrence of certain events) or exchangeable into or exercisable for any shares of its capital stock (except (A) regular quarterly cash dividends by Boston Private at a rate not in excess of \$0.06 per share of Boston Private Common Stock declared and paid on a schedule consistent with past practice, and required dividends in respect of its trust preferred securities, (B) dividends paid by any of the Subsidiaries of Boston Private to Boston Private or any of its wholly owned Subsidiaries and (C) the acceptance of shares of Boston Private Common Stock as payment for the exercise price of Boston Private Stock Options or for withholding taxes incurred in

connection with the exercise of Boston Private Stock Options or the vesting or settlement of Boston Private Equity Awards and dividend equivalents thereon, if any, in each case in accordance with past practice and the terms of the applicable award agreements);

(iii) grant any stock options, restricted stock, restricted stock units, performance stock units or other equity-based awards or interests, or grant any person any right to acquire any shares of its capital stock; or

(iv) issue, sell, transfer, encumber or otherwise permit to become outstanding any shares of capital stock or voting securities or equity interests or securities convertible (whether currently convertible or convertible only after the passage of time or the occurrence of certain events) or exchangeable into, or exercisable for, any shares of its capital stock or other equity or voting securities or any options, warrants, or other rights of any kind to acquire any shares of capital stock or other equity or voting securities, except for the issuance of shares upon the exercise of Boston Private Stock Options, the vesting or settlement of Boston Private Equity Awards (and dividend equivalents thereon, if any), or the issuance of shares upon the exercise of purchase rights under the Boston Private ESPP in accordance with their terms;

(c) sell, transfer, mortgage, encumber or otherwise dispose of any of its material properties or assets or any business to any individual, corporation or other entity other than a wholly owned Subsidiary, or cancel, release or assign any material indebtedness to any such person or any claims held by any such person, in each case, other than in the ordinary course;

(d) grant, extend, amend, waive or modify any material rights in or to, nor sell, assign, lease, transfer, license, let lapse, abandon, cancel or otherwise dispose of, or extend or exercise any option to sell, assign, lease, transfer, license, or otherwise dispose of, any material Intellectual Property owned by Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries;

(e) except for foreclosure or acquisitions of control in a fiduciary or similar capacity or in satisfaction of debts previously contracted in good faith in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice, make any material investment in or acquisition of (whether by purchase of stock or securities, contributions to capital, property transfers, merger or consolidation, or formation of a joint venture or otherwise) any other person or the property or assets of any other person, in each case, other than in a wholly owned Subsidiary of Boston Private;

(f) engage in "proprietary trading" (as defined in the Volcker Rule), acquire or hold any ownership interest in or sponsor any "covered fund" (as defined in the Volcker Rule) or enter into any new, or amend any existing, agreement to act as investment adviser, investment sub-adviser, sponsor or manager for any Public Fund, Non-U.S. Retail Fund or Private Fund;

(g) in each case, except for transactions in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice, terminate, materially amend, or waive any material provision of, any Boston Private Contract, or make any change in any instrument or agreement governing the terms of any of its securities, other than normal renewals of contracts and leases without material adverse changes of terms with respect to Boston Private or enter into any contract that would constitute a Boston Private Contract if it were in effect on the date of this Agreement;

(h) except as required under applicable law or the terms of any Boston Private Benefit Plan existing as of the date hereof, as applicable, (i) enter into, establish, adopt, amend (other than administrative amendments that do not materially increase liabilities) or terminate any Boston Private Benefit Plan, or any arrangement that would be a Boston Private Benefit Plan if in effect on the date hereof, (ii) increase the compensation or benefits payable to any current or former employee, officer, director or consultant, (iii) pay or award, or commit to pay or award, any material bonuses or incentive compensation other than in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice, (iv) grant or accelerate the vesting of any equity-based awards or other compensation, (v) enter into any new, or amend any existing, employment, severance, change in control, retention, collective bargaining agreement or similar agreement or arrangement, (vi) fund

any rabbi trust or similar arrangement or in any other way secure the payment of compensation or benefits under any Boston Private Benefit Plan, (vii) terminate the employment or services of any officer or any employee whose annual base salary or wage rate is greater than \$250,000 or whose total target annual compensation is greater than \$500,000, other than for cause, or (viii) hire any officer, employee, independent contractor or consultant (who is a natural person) who has an annual base salary or wage rate greater than \$250,000;

(i) except for debt workouts in the ordinary course of business, settle any claim, suit, action or proceeding, except involving solely monetary remedies in an amount and for consideration not in excess of \$500,000 individually or \$1,500,000 in the aggregate or that would not impose any material restriction on, or create any adverse precedent that would be material to, the business of it or its Subsidiaries or the Surviving Corporation or to the receipt of regulatory approvals for the transactions contemplated hereby on a timely basis;

(j) take any action or knowingly fail to take any action where such action or failure to act could reasonably be expected to prevent the Merger from qualifying as a "reorganization" within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Code;

(k) amend the Boston Private Articles of Organization, Boston Private Bylaws or comparable governing documents of its Subsidiaries;

(l) merge or consolidate itself or any of its Subsidiaries with any other person, or restructure, reorganize or completely or partially liquidate or dissolve it or any of its Subsidiaries;

(m) materially restructure or materially change its investment securities or derivatives portfolio or its interest rate exposure, through purchases, sales or otherwise, or the manner in which the portfolio is classified or reported, except as may be required by GAAP or by applicable laws, regulations, guidelines or policies imposed by any Governmental Entity;

(n) take any action that is intended or expected to result in any of the conditions of the Merger set forth in Article VII not being satisfied, except, in every case, as may be required by applicable law;

(o) implement or adopt any change in its accounting principles, practices or methods, other than as may be required by GAAP;

(p) (i) enter into any new line of business or change in any material respect its lending, investment, hedging, underwriting, risk and asset liability management and other banking and operating, securitization and servicing practices or policies (including any change in the maximum ratio or similar limits as a percentage of its capital exposure applicable with respect to its loan portfolio or any segment thereof), except as required by applicable law, regulation or policies imposed by any Governmental Entity or (ii) make any loans or extensions of credit or renewals thereof, except in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice, provided (A) any loan or extension of credit or renewal thereof that pursuant to Boston Private's approved loan policies as in effect as of the date hereof (copies of which have been provided to SVB Financial prior to the date hereof) would require prior approval of Boston Private Bank's Risk Management Committee (provided, that, subject to Section 6.2 and Section 9.14, SVB Financial will be provided with copies of all reporting and materials provided to any loan committee of Boston Private Bank, including the Residential Loan Committee, Management Loan Committee, Executive Loan Committee and Risk Management Committee) or (B) any loan or extension of credit or renewal thereof of the type set forth on Section 5.2(p)(ii) of the Boston Private Disclosure Schedule, in each case, shall require the prior written approval of the Chief Credit Officer of SVB Bank or another officer designated by SVB Financial, which approval or rejection shall be given in writing within three (3) business days after the loan package is delivered to such individual and deemed given if no response is received;

(q) make, or commit to make, any capital expenditures that exceed by more than 5% the amounts disclosed in Boston Private's capital expenditure budget set forth in Section 5.2(q) of the Boston Private Disclosure Schedule;

(r) make, change or revoke any material Tax election, change an annual Tax accounting period, adopt or change any material Tax accounting method, file any material amended Tax Return, enter into any material closing agreement with respect to Taxes, or settle any material Tax claim, audit, assessment or dispute or surrender any right to claim a material refund of Taxes, in each case, other than in the ordinary course of business;

(s) (i) except as set forth in Section 5.2(s)(i) of the Boston Private Disclosure Schedule, make application for the opening, relocation or closing of any, or open, relocate or close any, branch office, loan production office or other significant office or operations facility of it or its Subsidiaries or (ii) other than in consultation with SVB Financial, purchase any new real property (other than other real estate owned (OREO) properties in the ordinary course);

(t) knowingly take any action that is intended to or would reasonably be expected to adversely affect or materially delay the ability of SVB Financial or Boston Private or their respective Subsidiaries to obtain any necessary approvals of any Governmental Entity required for the transactions contemplated hereby or by the Bank Merger Agreement or to perform its covenants and agreements under this Agreement or the Bank Merger Agreement or to consummate the transactions contemplated hereby or thereby; or

(u) agree to take, make any commitment to take, or adopt any resolutions of its Board of Directors or similar governing body in support of, any of the actions prohibited by this Section 5.2.

5.3 SVB Financial Forbearances. During the period from the date of this Agreement to the Effective Time or earlier termination of this Agreement, except as set forth in the SVB Financial Disclosure Schedule, as expressly contemplated or permitted by this Agreement or as required by law (including Pandemic Measures), SVB Financial shall not, and shall not permit any of its Subsidiaries to, without the prior written consent of Boston Private (such consent not to be unreasonably withheld, conditioned or delayed):

(a) amend the SVB Financial Articles or the SVB Financial Bylaws in a manner that would materially and adversely affect the holders of Boston Private Common Stock, or adversely affect the holders of Boston Private Common Stock relative to other holders of SVB Financial Common Stock;

(b) adjust, split, combine or reclassify any SVB Financial Common Stock, or make, declare or pay any extraordinary dividend or distribution on any SVB Financial Common Stock;

(c) take any action or knowingly fail to take any action where such action or failure to act could reasonably be expected to prevent the Merger from qualifying as a "reorganization" within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Code;

(d) knowingly take any action that is intended to or would reasonably be expected to adversely affect or materially delay the ability of SVB Financial or Boston Private or their respective Subsidiaries to obtain any necessary approvals of any Governmental Entity required for the transactions contemplated hereby or by the Bank Merger Agreement or to perform its covenants and agreements under this Agreement or the Bank Merger Agreement or to consummate the transactions contemplated hereby or thereby;

(e) take any action that is intended or expected to result in any of the conditions of the Merger set forth in Article VII not being satisfied, except, in every case, as may be required by applicable law; or

(f) agree to take, make any commitment to take, or adopt any resolutions of its Board of Directors or similar governing body in support of, any of the actions prohibited by this Section 5.3.

ARTICLE VI

ADDITIONAL AGREEMENTS

6.1 Regulatory Matters.

(a) SVB Financial and Boston Private shall promptly prepare and file with the SEC, no later than 45 days after the date of this Agreement, the Proxy Statement and SVB Financial shall promptly prepare and file with the SEC the S-4, in which the Proxy Statement will be included as a prospectus. Each of SVB Financial and Boston Private shall use its reasonable best efforts to have the S-4 declared effective under the Securities Act as promptly as practicable after such filing, and Boston Private shall thereafter mail or deliver the Proxy Statement to its shareholders. In furtherance of the foregoing, each of SVB Financial and Boston Private shall use reasonable best efforts to file all information required by Part III of Form 10-K that is not included in its annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2020 by no later than March 19, 2021 (by including such information within either a proxy statement or an amendment to such annual report on Form 10-K). SVB Financial shall also use its reasonable best efforts to obtain all necessary state securities law or "Blue Sky" permits and approvals required to carry out the transactions contemplated by this Agreement, and Boston Private shall furnish all information concerning Boston Private and the holders of Boston Private Common Stock as may be reasonably requested in connection with any such action.

(b) The parties hereto shall cooperate with each other and use their reasonable best efforts to promptly prepare and file all necessary documentation, to effect all applications, notices, petitions and filings, to obtain as promptly as practicable all permits, consents, approvals and authorizations of all third parties and Governmental Entities which are necessary or advisable to consummate the transactions contemplated by this Agreement (including the Merger and the Bank Merger), and to comply with the terms and conditions of all such permits, consents, approvals and authorizations of all such third parties and Governmental Entities. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, as soon as practicable and in no event later than 45 days after the date of this Agreement, SVB Financial and Boston Private shall, and shall cause their respective Subsidiaries to, each prepare and file any applications, notices and filings required in order to obtain the Requisite Regulatory Approvals. SVB Financial and Boston Private shall each use, and shall each cause their applicable Subsidiaries to use, reasonable best efforts to obtain each such Requisite Regulatory Approval as promptly as reasonably practicable. The parties shall cooperate with each other in connection therewith (including the furnishing of any information and any reasonable undertaking or commitments that may be required to obtain the Requisite Regulatory Approvals). SVB Financial and Boston Private shall have the right to review in advance, and, to the extent practicable, each will consult the other on, in each case subject to applicable laws relating to the exchange of information, all the information relating to Boston Private or SVB Financial, as the case may be, and any of their respective Subsidiaries, which appears in any filing made with, or written materials submitted to, any third party or any Governmental Entity in connection with the transactions contemplated by this Agreement. In exercising the foregoing right, each of the parties hereto shall act reasonably and as promptly as practicable. The parties hereto agree that they will consult with each other with respect to the obtaining of all permits, consents, approvals and authorizations of all third parties and Governmental Entities necessary or advisable to consummate the transactions contemplated by this Agreement and each party will keep the other reasonably apprised of the status of matters relating to completion of the transactions contemplated herein. Each party will provide the other with copies of any applications and all correspondence relating thereto prior to filing, other than any portions of material filed in connection therewith that contain (i) competitively sensitive business or other proprietary information filed under a claim of confidentiality or (ii) confidential supervisory information (including confidential supervisory information as defined in 12 C.F.R. § 261.2(c) and as identified in 12 C.F.R. § 309.5(g)(8)) of a Governmental Entity. In furtherance and not in limitation of the foregoing, each party shall use its reasonable best efforts to respond to any request for information and resolve any objection that may be asserted by any Governmental Entity with respect to this Agreement or the transactions contemplated hereby. Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing contained herein shall be

deemed to require SVB Financial or Boston Private to take any action, or commit to take any action, or agree to any condition or restriction, in connection with obtaining the foregoing permits, consents, approvals and authorizations of Governmental Entities that would reasonably be expected to have a material adverse effect on SVB Financial and its Subsidiaries, taken as a whole (measured on a scale relative to Boston Private and its Subsidiaries, taken as a whole) (a “Materially Burdensome Regulatory Condition”).

(c) SVB Financial and Boston Private shall, upon request, furnish each other with all information concerning themselves, their Subsidiaries, directors, officers and shareholders and such other matters as may be reasonably necessary or advisable in connection with the Proxy Statement, the S-4 or any other statement, filing, notice or application made by or on behalf of SVB Financial, Boston Private or any of their respective Subsidiaries to any Governmental Entity in connection with the Merger the Bank Merger and the other transactions contemplated by this Agreement. Each of SVB Financial and Boston Private agrees, as to itself and its Subsidiaries, that none of the information supplied or to be supplied by it for inclusion or incorporation by reference in (i) the S-4 will, at the time the S-4 and each amendment or supplement thereto, if any, becomes effective under the Securities Act, contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state any material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein not misleading, (ii) the Proxy Statement and any amendment or supplement thereto will, at the date of mailing to shareholders and at the time of Boston Private’s meeting of its shareholders to consider and vote upon approval of this Agreement, contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state any material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances under which such statement was made, not misleading and (iii) any applications, notices and filings required in order to obtain the Requisite Regulatory Approvals will, at the time each is filed, contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state any material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein not misleading. Each of SVB Financial and Boston Private further agrees that if it becomes aware that any information furnished by it would cause any of the statements in the S-4 or the Proxy Statement to be false or misleading with respect to any material fact, or to omit to state any material fact necessary to make the statements therein not false or misleading, to promptly inform the other party thereof and to take appropriate steps to correct the S-4 or the Proxy Statement.

## 6.2 Access to Information.

(a) Upon reasonable notice and subject to applicable laws, each of SVB Financial and Boston Private, for the purposes of verifying the representations and warranties of the other and preparing for the Merger and the other matters contemplated by this Agreement, shall, and shall cause each of their respective Subsidiaries to, afford to the officers, employees, accountants, counsel, advisors and other representatives of the other party, access, during normal business hours during the period prior to the Effective Time, to all its properties, books, contracts, personnel, information technology systems, and records, and each shall cooperate with the other party in preparing to execute after the Effective Time conversion or consolidation of systems and business operations generally (including by entering into customary confidentiality, non-disclosure and similar agreements with such service providers and/or the other party), and, during such period, each of SVB Financial and Boston Private shall, and shall cause its respective Subsidiaries to, make available to the other party such information concerning its business, properties and personnel as such party may reasonably request. Each party shall use commercially reasonable efforts to minimize any interference with the other party’s regular business operations during any such access. Neither SVB Financial nor Boston Private nor any of their respective Subsidiaries shall be required to provide access to or to disclose information where such access or disclosure would violate or prejudice the rights of SVB Financial’s or Boston Private’s, as the case may be, customers, jeopardize the attorney-client privilege of the institution in possession or control of such information (after giving due consideration to the existence of any common interest, joint defense or similar agreement between the parties) or contravene any law, rule, regulation, order, judgment, decree, fiduciary duty or binding agreement entered into prior to the date of this Agreement. The parties hereto will make appropriate substitute disclosure arrangements under circumstances in which the restrictions of the preceding sentence apply.



(b) Each of SVB Financial and Boston Private shall hold all information furnished by or on behalf of the other party or any of such party's Subsidiaries or representatives in confidence to the extent required by, and in accordance with, the provisions of the Amended and Restated Mutual Non-Disclosure Agreement, dated as of July 15, 2020, between SVB Financial and Boston Private (the "Confidentiality Agreement").

(c) No investigation by either of the parties or their respective representatives shall affect or be deemed to modify or waive the representations and warranties of the other set forth herein. Nothing contained in this Agreement shall give either party, directly or indirectly, the right to control or direct the operations of the other party prior to the Effective Time. Prior to the Effective Time, each party shall exercise, consistent with the terms and conditions of this Agreement, complete control and supervision over its and its Subsidiaries' respective operations.

### 6.3 Boston Private Shareholder Approval.

(a) Boston Private shall call a meeting of its shareholders (the "Boston Private Meeting") to be held as soon as reasonably practicable after the S-4 is declared effective for the purpose of obtaining the Requisite Boston Private Vote required in connection with this Agreement and the Merger, and, if so desired and mutually agreed, upon other matters of the type customarily brought before an annual or special meeting of shareholders to approve a merger agreement. Boston Private shall use its reasonable best efforts to cause such meeting to occur as soon as reasonably practicable. Such meeting may be held virtually, subject to applicable law and the organizational documents of Boston Private. The Board of Directors of Boston Private shall use its reasonable best efforts to obtain from the shareholders of Boston Private the Requisite Boston Private Vote, including by communicating to its shareholders its unqualified recommendation (and including such recommendation in the Proxy Statement) that they approve this Agreement and the transactions contemplated hereby and the Boston Private Board of Directors shall not (i) withdraw, modify or qualify such recommendation in a manner adverse to SVB Financial, or resolve to do so, (ii) fail to reaffirm such recommendation within ten (10) business days after SVB Financial requests in writing that such action be taken, (iii) fail to publicly and without qualification (A) recommend against any Acquisition Proposal or (B) reaffirm the board recommendation within ten (10) business days (or such fewer number of days as remains prior to the Boston Private Meeting) after an Acquisition Proposal is made public or any request by SVB Financial to do so, (iv) adopt, approve, recommend or endorse an Acquisition Proposal or publicly announce an intention to adopt, approve, recommend or endorse an Acquisition Proposal, or (v) publicly propose to do any of the foregoing. Boston Private shall engage a proxy solicitor reasonably acceptable to SVB Financial to assist in the solicitation of proxies from shareholders relating to the Requisite Boston Private Vote. However, subject to Section 8.1 and Section 8.2, if the Board of Directors of Boston Private, after receiving the advice of its outside counsel and, with respect to financial matters, its financial advisors, determines in good faith that it would more likely than not result in a violation of its fiduciary duties under applicable law to continue to recommend this Agreement, then in submitting this Agreement to its shareholders, the Board of Directors of Boston Private may submit this Agreement to its shareholders without recommendation (although the resolutions approving this Agreement as of the date hereof may not be rescinded or amended), in which event the Board of Directors of Boston Private may communicate the basis for its lack of a recommendation to its shareholders in the Proxy Statement or an appropriate amendment or supplement thereto to the extent required by law; provided, that the Board of Directors of Boston Private may not take any actions under this sentence unless (i) Boston Private shall have complied in all material respects with Section 6.9; (ii) if such actions are taken in response to an unsolicited *bona fide* Acquisition Proposal, the Boston Private Board of Directors shall have concluded in good faith, after giving effect to all the adjustments which may be offered by SVB Financial pursuant to clause (iv) below, that such Acquisition Proposal constitutes a Superior Proposal; (iii) Boston Private shall notify SVB Financial, at least four (4) business days in advance, of the intention of the Boston Private Board of Directors to change its recommendation (including, in the event such change in recommendation is in response to an Acquisition Proposal, the identity of the party making such Acquisition Proposal and furnish to SVB Financial all the material terms and conditions of such proposal to the extent not previously provided pursuant to Section 6.9, or describe in reasonable detail such other event or

circumstances if such change in recommendation is not in response to an Acquisition Proposal); and (iv) prior to effecting a change in the recommendation of the Boston Private Board of Directors, Boston Private shall, and shall cause its financial and legal advisors to, during the period following Boston Private's delivery of the notice referred to in clause (iii) above, negotiate with SVB Financial in good faith for a period of up to four (4) business days (to the extent SVB Financial desires to negotiate) to allow SVB Financial to propose such adjustments in the terms and conditions of this Agreement so that an Acquisition Proposal referred to in clause (ii) above ceases to constitute a Superior Proposal or so that it would no longer more likely than not result in a violation of the Boston Private Board of Directors' fiduciary duties under applicable law to continue to recommend this Agreement. Any material amendment to any Acquisition Proposal will be deemed to be a new Acquisition Proposal for purposes of this Section 6.3 and will require a new notice period as referred to in this Section 6.3.

(b) Boston Private shall adjourn or postpone the Boston Private Meeting, if, as of the time for which such meeting is originally scheduled there are insufficient shares of Boston Private Common Stock represented (either in person or by proxy) to constitute a quorum necessary to conduct the business of such meeting, or if on the date of such meeting Boston Private has not received proxies representing a sufficient number of shares necessary to obtain the Requisite Boston Private Vote; provided, that Boston Private shall only be required to adjourn or postpone the Boston Private Meeting two (2) times pursuant to the first sentence of this Section 6.3(b). Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, unless this Agreement has been terminated in accordance with its terms, the Boston Private Meeting shall be convened and this Agreement shall be submitted to the shareholders of Boston Private at the Boston Private Meeting, for the purpose of voting on the approval of this Agreement and the other matters contemplated hereby, and nothing contained herein shall be deemed to relieve Boston Private of such obligation.

6.4 Stock Exchange Listing. SVB Financial shall cause the shares of SVB Financial Common Stock to be issued in the Merger to be approved for listing on the NASDAQ, subject to official notice of issuance, prior to the Effective Time.

6.5 Employee Matters.

(a) During the period commencing at the Effective Time and ending on the first anniversary thereof (the "Continuation Period"), SVB Financial shall cause the Surviving Corporation to provide continuing employees of Boston Private and its Subsidiaries (the "Continuing Employees") with (i) base salary or base wage rather than that is no less favorable than that provided by Boston Private and its Subsidiaries to each Continuing Employee immediately prior to the Effective Time, and (ii) benefits (including pension and welfare benefits) that are substantially comparable in the aggregate to those provided by Boston Private immediately prior to the Effective Time. Additionally, SVB Financial agrees that each Continuing Employee shall, during the Continuation Period, be provided with severance benefits that are no less favorable than the severance benefits provided by Boston Private and its Subsidiaries to such Continuing Employee immediately prior to the Effective Time, as set forth in Section 6.5(a) of the Boston Private Disclosure Schedule.

(b) With respect to any employee benefit plans of SVB Financial or its Subsidiaries in which any employees of Boston Private or its Subsidiaries become eligible to participate on or after the Effective Time (the "New Plans"), SVB Financial shall or shall cause the Surviving Corporation to: (i) waive all pre-existing conditions or limitations and waiting periods under any group health plans of SVB Financial or its affiliates to be waived with respect to the Continuing Employees and their eligible dependents, (ii) provide each Continuing Employee credit for the plan year in which such Continuing Employee commences participation in such New Plan towards applicable deductibles and annual out-of-pocket limits for medical expenses incurred prior to commencing participation for which payment has been made and (iii) give each Continuing Employee service credit for such Employee's employment with Boston Private and its Subsidiaries (and any predecessor entity) for all purposes under each applicable New Plan, as if such service had been performed with SVB Financial, provided that the foregoing service recognition shall not

apply (A) to the extent it would result in duplication of benefits for the same period of services, (B) for purposes of any defined benefit pension plan or benefit plan that provides retiree welfare benefits, or (C) to any benefit plan that is a frozen plan or provides grandfathered benefits.

(c) Prior to the Effective Time, if requested by SVB Financial in writing no later than 14 days prior to the Effective Time, to the extent permitted by applicable law and the terms of the applicable plan or arrangement, Boston Private shall cause Boston Private's tax-qualified defined contribution plan (the "Boston Private 401(k) Plan") to be terminated effective immediately prior to the Effective Time, contingent on the occurrence of the Effective Time. In the event that SVB Financial requests that the Boston Private 401(k) Plan be terminated, Boston Private shall provide SVB Financial with evidence that such Boston Private 401(k) Plan has been terminated (the form and substance of which shall be subject to review and reasonable approval by SVB Financial) not later than the day immediately preceding the Effective Time.

(d) In the event that SVB Financial requests that the Boston Private 401(k) Plan be terminated, prior to the Effective Time and thereafter (as applicable), (i) Boston Private and SVB Financial shall take any and all actions as may be required, including amendments to the Boston Private 401(k) Plan and/or the tax-qualified defined contribution retirement plan designated by SVB Financial (the "SVB Financial 401(k) Plan") to permit such Continuing Employee to make rollover contributions of "eligible rollover distributions" (within the meaning of Section 401(a)(31) of the Code) in an amount equal to the full account balance distributed to such Continuing Employee (including the in-kind rollover of notes evidencing loans) from the Boston Private 401(k) Plan to the SVB Financial 401(k) Plan and (ii) each Continuing Employee shall become a participant in the SVB Financial 401(k) Plan on the Closing Date (giving effect to the service crediting provisions of Section 6.5(b)); it being agreed that there shall be no gap in participation in a tax-qualified defined contribution plan. Boston Private and SVB Financial shall cooperate to take any and all commercially reasonable actions needed to permit each Continuing Employee with an outstanding loan balance under the Boston Private 401(k) Plan as of the Effective Time to continue to make scheduled loan payments to the Boston Private 401(k) Plan after the Effective Time, pending the distribution and in-kind rollover of the notes evidencing such loans from the Boston Private 401(k) Plan to the SVB Financial 401(k) Plan, as provided in the preceding sentence, so as to prevent, to the extent reasonably possible, a deemed distribution or loan offset with respect to such outstanding loans.

(e) SVB Financial shall, or shall cause the Surviving Corporation to, assume and honor all Boston Private Benefit Plans in accordance with their terms. SVB Financial hereby acknowledges that a "change in control", "sale event" (or similar phrase) within the meaning of the Boston Private Benefit Plans will occur at the Effective Time.

(f) Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 6.10, prior to Boston Private making any broad-based written or material oral communications to the managers, officers or employees of Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries pertaining to the consequences of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement with respect to compensation or benefit matters, Boston Private shall provide SVB Financial with a copy of the intended communication, SVB Financial shall have two business days to review and comment on the communication, and Boston Private shall consider any such comments in good faith; provided, however, that Boston Private shall not be required to provide to SVB Financial a copy of any communication that is materially consistent with a communication previously reviewed by SVB Financial. Nothing in this Agreement shall confer upon any employee, officer, director or consultant of Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries or affiliates any right to continue in the employ or service of the Surviving Corporation, Boston Private, or any Subsidiary or affiliate thereof, or shall interfere with or restrict in any way the rights of the Surviving Corporation, Boston Private, SVB Financial or any Subsidiary or affiliate thereof to discharge or terminate the services of any employee, officer, director or consultant of Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries or affiliates at any time for any reason whatsoever, with or without cause. Nothing in this Agreement shall be deemed to (i) establish, amend, or modify any Boston Private Benefit Plan, New Plan or any other benefit or employment plan, program, agreement or arrangement, or (ii) alter or limit the ability of SVB Financial, the Surviving Corporation or any of its Subsidiaries or affiliates to amend, modify or

terminate any particular Boston Private Benefit Plan, New Plan or any other benefit or employment plan, program, agreement or arrangement after the Effective Time. Without limiting the generality of the final sentence of Section 9.11, nothing in this Agreement, express or implied, is intended to or shall confer upon any person, including any current or former employee, officer, director or consultant of Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries or affiliates, any right, benefit or remedy of any nature whatsoever under or by reason of this Agreement (except as set forth in Section 6.6).

**6.6 Indemnification; Directors' and Officers' Insurance.**

(a) From and after the Effective Time, the Surviving Corporation shall indemnify and hold harmless, to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, each present and former director, officer or employee of Boston Private and its Subsidiaries (in each case, when acting in such capacity) (collectively, the "Boston Private Indemnified Parties") against any costs or expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees), judgments, fines, losses, damages or liabilities incurred in connection with any threatened or actual claim, action, suit, proceeding or investigation, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative, whether arising before or after the Effective Time, arising in whole or in part out of, or pertaining to, (i) the fact that such person is or was a director, officer, or employee of Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries or (ii) matters existing or occurring at or prior to the Effective Time, including matters, acts or omissions occurring in connection with the approval of this Agreement and the consummation of the transactions contemplated hereby; and SVB Financial and the Surviving Corporation shall also advance expenses as incurred by such Boston Private Indemnified Party to the same extent as such persons are entitled to advancement of expenses as of the date of this Agreement by Boston Private pursuant to the Boston Private Articles of Organization, Boston Private's Bylaws, the governing or organizational documents of any Boston Private Subsidiary and any indemnification agreements in existence as of the date hereof that have been disclosed to SVB Financial; provided that the Boston Private Indemnified Party to whom expenses are advanced provides an undertaking (in a reasonable and customary form) to repay such advances if it is ultimately determined that such Boston Private Indemnified Party is not entitled to indemnification.

(b) Subject to the following sentence, for a period of six (6) years after the Effective Time, the Surviving Corporation shall cause to be maintained in effect the current policies of directors' and officers' liability insurance maintained by Boston Private (provided, that the Surviving Corporation may substitute therefor policies with a substantially comparable insurer of at least the same coverage and amounts containing terms and conditions which are no less advantageous to the insured) with respect to claims against the present and former officers and directors of Boston Private or any of its Subsidiaries arising from facts or events which occurred at or before the Effective Time (including the transactions contemplated by this Agreement); provided, however, that the Surviving Corporation shall not be obligated to expend, on an annual basis, an amount in excess of 300% of the aggregate annual premium paid as of the date hereof by Boston Private for such insurance (the "Premium Cap"), and if such premiums for such insurance would at any time exceed the Premium Cap, then the Surviving Corporation shall cause to be maintained policies of insurance which, in the Surviving Corporation's good faith determination, provide the maximum coverage available at an annual premium equal to the Premium Cap. In lieu of the foregoing, Boston Private, in consultation with, but only upon the consent of SVB Financial, may (and at the request of SVB Financial, Boston Private shall use its reasonable best efforts to) obtain at or prior to the Effective Time a six-year "tail" policy under Boston Private's existing directors and officers insurance policy providing equivalent coverage to that described in the preceding sentence if and to the extent that the same may be obtained for an amount that, in the aggregate, does not exceed the Premium Cap.

(c) The provisions of this Section 6.6 shall survive the Effective Time and are intended to be for the benefit of, and shall be enforceable by, each Boston Private Indemnified Party and his or her heirs and representatives. If the Surviving Corporation or any of its successors or assigns, consolidates with or merges into any other entity and is not the continuing or surviving entity of such consolidation or merger, transfers all or substantially all of its assets or deposits to any other entity or engages in any similar transaction, then in each case, the Surviving Corporation will cause proper provision to be made so that the successors and assigns of the Surviving Corporation will expressly assume the obligations set forth in this Section 6.6.

6.7 Additional Agreements. In case at any time after the Effective Time any further action is necessary or desirable to carry out the purposes of this Agreement or to vest the Surviving Corporation with full title to all properties, assets, rights, approvals, immunities and franchises of any of the parties to the Merger, the proper officers and directors of each party to this Agreement and their respective Subsidiaries shall take, or cause to be taken, all such necessary action as may be reasonably requested by the other party, at the expense of the party who makes any such request.

6.8 Advice of Changes. SVB Financial and Boston Private shall each promptly advise the other party of any effect, change, event, circumstance, condition, occurrence or development (i) that has had or would reasonably be expected to have, either individually or in the aggregate, a Material Adverse Effect on such first party, or (ii) that such first party believes would or would reasonably be expected to cause or constitute a material breach of any of its representations, warranties, obligations, covenants or agreements contained in this Agreement that reasonably could be expected to give rise, individually or in the aggregate, to the failure of a condition in Article VII; provided, that any failure to give notice in accordance with the foregoing with respect to any breach shall not be deemed to constitute a violation of this Section 6.8 or the failure of any condition set forth in Section 7.2 or 7.3 to be satisfied, or otherwise constitute a breach of this Agreement by the party failing to give such notice, in each case, unless the underlying breach would independently result in a failure of the conditions set forth in Section 7.2 or 7.3 to be satisfied; and provided, further, that the delivery of any notice pursuant to this Section 6.8 shall not cure any breach of, or noncompliance with, any other provision of this Agreement or limit the remedies available to the party receiving such notice.

6.9 Acquisition Proposals.

(a) Boston Private shall not, shall cause its Subsidiaries and its and their officers and directors not to, and shall use its reasonable best efforts to cause its and their agents, advisors and representatives not to, directly or indirectly, (i) initiate, solicit, knowingly encourage or knowingly facilitate inquiries or proposals with respect to, (ii) engage or participate in any negotiations with any person concerning, (iii) provide any confidential or nonpublic information or data to, or have or participate in any discussions with, any person relating to, any Acquisition Proposal or (iv) publicly propose any of the foregoing or propose any of the foregoing to a third party; provided, that, prior to receipt of the Requisite Boston Private Vote, in the event Boston Private receives an unsolicited *bona fide* written Acquisition Proposal, it may, and may permit its Subsidiaries and its and its Subsidiaries' officers, directors, agents, advisors and representatives to, furnish or cause to be furnished nonpublic information or data and participate in such negotiations or discussions to the extent that its Board of Directors concludes in good faith (after receiving the advice of its outside counsel, and with respect to financial matters, its financial advisors) that failure to take such actions would be more likely than not to result in a violation of its fiduciary duties under applicable law; provided, further, that, prior to or concurrently with providing any nonpublic information permitted to be provided pursuant to the foregoing proviso, Boston Private shall have provided such information to SVB Financial, and shall have entered into a confidentiality agreement with such third party on terms no less favorable to it than the Confidentiality Agreement, which confidentiality agreement shall not provide such person with any exclusive right to negotiate with Boston Private. Boston Private will, will cause its officers and directors to, and will use reasonable best efforts to cause its agents, advisors and representatives to, immediately cease and cause to be terminated any activities, discussions or negotiations conducted before the date of this Agreement with any person other than SVB Financial with respect to any Acquisition Proposal. Boston Private will promptly (and in any event within twenty-four (24) hours and before entering into any discussions or providing any information) advise SVB Financial following receipt of any Acquisition Proposal or any inquiry which could reasonably be expected to lead to an Acquisition Proposal, and the substance thereof (including the material terms and conditions of and the identity of the person making such inquiry or Acquisition Proposal), will provide SVB Financial with an unredacted copy of any such Acquisition Proposal and any draft agreements, proposals or other materials received in connection with any such inquiry or Acquisition Proposal, and will promptly (and in any event within twenty-four (24) hours) advise SVB Financial of any related material developments, discussions and negotiations on a current basis,

including any amendments to or revisions of the material terms of such inquiry or Acquisition Proposal. Boston Private shall use its reasonable best efforts to enforce any existing confidentiality or standstill agreements to which it or any of its Subsidiaries is a party in accordance with the terms thereof. Boston Private shall not, and shall cause its Subsidiaries and its and their officers, directors, agents, advisors and representatives not to on its behalf, enter into any letter of intent, memorandum of understanding, agreement in principle, acquisition agreement, merger agreement, or other agreement (other than a confidentiality agreement referred to and entered into in accordance with this Section 6.9(a)) relating to any Acquisition Proposal. As used in this Agreement, "Acquisition Proposal" means, other than the transactions contemplated by this Agreement, any offer, proposal or inquiry relating to, or any third party indication of interest in, (i) any acquisition or purchase, direct or indirect, of 25% or more of the consolidated assets of Boston Private and its Subsidiaries or 25% or more of any class of equity or voting securities of Boston Private or its Subsidiaries whose assets, individually or in the aggregate, constitute more than 25% of the consolidated assets of Boston Private, (ii) any tender offer (including a self tender offer) or exchange offer that, if consummated, would result in such third party beneficially owning 25% or more of any class of equity or voting securities of Boston Private or its Subsidiaries whose assets, individually or in the aggregate, constitute more than 25% of the consolidated assets of Boston Private, or (iii) a merger, consolidation, share exchange or other business combination involving Boston Private or its Subsidiaries whose assets, individually or in the aggregate, constitute more than 25% of the consolidated assets of Boston Private. As used in this Agreement, "Superior Proposal" means a *bona fide* written Acquisition Proposal that the Board of Directors of Boston Private concludes in good faith to be more favorable to its shareholders than the Merger and the other transactions contemplated hereby, (i) after receiving the advice of its financial advisors, (ii) after taking into account the likelihood of consummation of such transaction on the terms set forth therein and (iii) after taking into account all legal (with the advice of outside counsel), financial (including the financing terms of any such proposal), regulatory and other aspects of such proposal (including any expense reimbursement provisions and conditions to closing) and any other relevant factors permitted under applicable law; provided, that for purposes of the definition of "Superior Proposal," the reference to "25%" in the definition of Acquisition Proposal shall instead refer to "50%".

(b) Nothing contained in this Agreement shall prevent Boston Private or its Board of Directors from complying with Rule 14d-9 and Rule 14e-2 under the Exchange Act with respect to an Acquisition Proposal or from making any legally required disclosure to Boston Private's shareholders; provided, that such Rules will in no way eliminate or modify the effect that any action pursuant to such Rules would otherwise have under this Agreement.

6.10 Public Announcements. Boston Private and SVB Financial shall each use their reasonable best efforts (a) to develop a joint communications plan, (b) to ensure that all press releases and other public statements with respect to the transactions contemplated hereby shall be consistent with such joint communications plan, and (c) except in respect of any announcement required by (i) applicable law or regulation, (ii) a request by a Governmental Entity or (iii) an obligation pursuant to any listing agreement with or rules of any securities exchange, or in connection with a change in recommendation by Boston Private in accordance with Section 6.3, Boston Private and SVB Financial agree to consult with each other and to obtain the advance approval of the other party (which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld, conditioned or delayed) before issuing any press release or, to the extent practical, otherwise making any public statement with respect to this Agreement or the transactions contemplated hereby.

6.11 Change of Method. SVB Financial may at any time change the method of effecting the Merger, and Boston Private agrees to enter into such amendments to this Agreement as SVB Financial may reasonably request in order to give effect to such restructuring; provided, however, that no such change or amendment shall (i) alter or change the amount or kind of the Merger Consideration provided for in this Agreement, (ii) adversely affect the Tax treatment of the Merger with respect to Boston Private's shareholders or (iii) be reasonably likely to cause the Closing to be materially delayed or the receipt of the Requisite Regulatory Approvals to be prevented or materially delayed.

6.12 Restructuring Efforts. If Boston Private shall have failed to obtain the Requisite Boston Private Vote at the duly convened Boston Private Meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof, each of the parties shall in good faith use its reasonable best efforts to negotiate a restructuring of the transaction provided for herein (provided, however, that no party shall have any obligation to agree to (i) alter or change any material term of this Agreement, including the amount or kind of the Merger Consideration provided for in this Agreement or (ii) adversely affect the Tax treatment of the Merger with respect to Boston Private's shareholders) and/or (in the case of Boston Private) resubmit this Agreement or the transactions contemplated hereby (or as restructured pursuant to this Section 6.12) to its shareholders for approval.

6.13 Takeover Statutes. Neither Boston Private nor its Board of Directors shall take any action that would cause any Takeover Statute to become applicable to this Agreement, the Merger or any of the other transactions contemplated hereby, and Boston Private and its Board of Directors shall take all necessary steps to exempt (or ensure the continued exemption of) the Merger and the other transactions contemplated hereby from any applicable Takeover Statute now or hereafter in effect. If any Takeover Statute may become, or may purport to be, applicable to the transactions contemplated hereby, Boston Private and the members of its Board of Directors will grant such approvals and take such actions as are necessary so that the transactions contemplated by this Agreement may be consummated as promptly as practicable on the terms contemplated hereby and thereby and otherwise act to eliminate or minimize the effects of any Takeover Statute on any of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement, including, if necessary, challenging the validity or applicability of any such Takeover Statute.

6.14 Exemption from Liability Under Section 16(b). Boston Private and SVB Financial agree that, in order to most effectively compensate and retain those officers and directors of Boston Private subject to the reporting requirements of Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act (the "Boston Private Insiders"), both prior to and after the Effective Time, it is desirable that Boston Private Insiders not be subject to a risk of liability under Section 16(b) of the Exchange Act to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law in connection with the conversion of shares of Boston Private Common Stock and Boston Private Equity Awards in the Merger, and for that compensatory and retentive purpose agree to the provisions of this Section 6.14. The Board of Directors of SVB Financial and of Boston Private, or a committee of non-employee directors thereof (as such term is defined for purposes of Rule 16b-3(d) under the Exchange Act), shall promptly, and in any event prior to the Effective Time, take all such steps as may be necessary or appropriate to cause (i) any dispositions of Boston Private Common Stock or Boston Private Equity Awards and (ii) any acquisitions of SVB Financial Common Stock and/or SVB Financial Stock Options and/or SVB Financial RSU Awards in respect of Boston Private Equity Awards converted at the Effective Time pursuant to Article I, in each case, pursuant to the transactions contemplated by this Agreement and by any Boston Private Insiders who, immediately following the Merger, will be officers or directors of the Surviving Corporation or SVB Financial subject to the reporting requirements of Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act, to be exempt from liability pursuant to Rule 16b-3 under the Exchange Act to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law.

6.15 Litigation and Claims. Each party shall promptly notify the other in writing of any action, arbitration, audit, hearing, investigation, litigation, suit, subpoena or summons issued, commenced, brought, conducted or heard by or before, or otherwise involving, any Governmental Entity or arbitrator pending or, to the knowledge of such party, threatened against Boston Private, SVB Financial or any of their Subsidiaries that (a) questions or would reasonably be expected to question the validity of this Agreement, the Bank Merger Agreement or the other agreements contemplated hereby or thereby or any actions taken or to be taken by Boston Private, SVB Financial or their Subsidiaries with respect hereto or thereto, or (b) seeks to enjoin or otherwise restrain the transactions contemplated hereby or thereby. Boston Private shall give SVB Financial the opportunity to participate at its own expense in the defense or settlement of any shareholder litigation against Boston Private and/or its directors or affiliates relating to the transactions contemplated by this Agreement, and no such settlement shall be agreed without SVB Financial's prior written consent (such consent not to be unreasonably withheld, conditioned or delayed).

6.16 Trust Preferred Securities. Upon the Effective Time, SVB Financial or a Subsidiary of SVB Financial shall assume the due and punctual performance and observance of the covenants and conditions to be performed by Boston Private under the (i) Indenture, between Boston Private and SunTrust Bank, as debenture trustee, dated October 12, 2004 and (ii) Indenture, between Boston Private and Wilmington Trust Company, as debenture trustee, dated September 27, 2005 (the "Trust Preferred Securities"), and the due and punctual payments of the principal of and premium, if any, and interest on the Trust Preferred Securities. In connection therewith, Boston Private, SVB Financial or any applicable Subsidiary shall execute and deliver any supplemental indentures, and the parties hereto shall use reasonable best efforts to provide any opinion of counsel to the trustee thereof, required to make such assumptions effective.

6.17 Non-Solicitation Covenants. Boston Private shall use its reasonable best efforts to enforce any existing Non-Solicitation Covenants to which it or any of its Subsidiaries is a party in accordance with the terms thereof. As used in this Agreement, "Non-Solicitation Covenant" means any covenant, obligation or agreement of a third party to not solicit, hire or attempt to solicit or hire any employee of Boston Private or any Boston Private Subsidiary for employment or in any other capacity (including as an independent contractor or consultant) contained in any existing agreement entered into in connection with any investment, strategic transaction, acquisition, disposition or other similar transaction between Boston Private or any Boston Private Subsidiary and such third party.

6.18 Advisory Contracts.

(a) Public Funds. Subject to the requirements of applicable law and the fiduciary duties of the Boston Private Board of Directors, the board of directors (or persons performing similar functions) of any Boston Private Subsidiary and each Public Fund Board:

(i) with respect to any pooled investment vehicle (including each portfolio or series thereof, if any) for which Boston Private or any Boston Private Subsidiary acts as investment adviser, investment sub-adviser, sponsor or manager, and which is registered as an investment company under the Investment Company Act (each, a "Public Fund", and the board of directors or trustees (or persons performing similar functions) thereof, each, a "Public Fund Board"), Boston Private shall use its reasonable best efforts, and shall cause each Boston Private Subsidiary to use its reasonable best efforts to: (A) request, as promptly as practicable following the date of this Agreement, such Public Fund Board to approve (and to recommend that the shareholders of such Public Fund approve) a new Advisory Agreement with the applicable Boston Private Subsidiary, to be effective as of the Effective Time, containing terms, taken as a whole, that are substantially similar to the terms of the existing Advisory Agreement between such Public Fund and such Boston Private Subsidiary; (B) request, as promptly as practicable following receipt of the approval and recommendation described in the foregoing clause (A), such Public Fund Board to call a special meeting of the shareholders of such Public Fund to be held as promptly as reasonably practicable for the purpose of voting upon a proposal to approve (in the requisite manner) such new Advisory Agreement; (C) request such Public Fund to prepare and to file (or to cause to be prepared and filed) with the SEC and all other applicable Governmental Entities, as promptly as practicable following receipt of the approval and recommendation described in the foregoing clause (A), all proxy solicitation materials required to be distributed to the shareholders of such Public Fund with respect to the actions recommended for shareholder approval by such Public Fund Board and to mail (or to cause to be mailed) such proxy solicitation materials as promptly as practical after clearance thereof by the SEC (if applicable); and (D) request such Public Fund Board to submit, as promptly as practical following the mailing of the proxy materials to the shareholders of such Public Fund for a vote at a shareholders meeting the proposal described in clause (B) above. In the event that the approval of the shareholders of a Public Fund of the applicable new Advisory Agreement described in the foregoing sentence is not obtained prior to the Closing, Boston Private may request the Public Fund Board of each such Public Fund to approve, in conformity with Rule 15a-4 under the Investment Company Act, an interim Advisory Agreement with the applicable Boston Private Subsidiary, with such agreement to be effective as of the



Effective Time, containing terms, taken as a whole, that are substantially similar to the terms of the existing Advisory Agreement between such Public Fund and such Boston Private Subsidiary (except for changes thereto to the extent necessary to comply with Rule 15a-4 under the Investment Company Act).

(ii) SVB Financial and Boston Private agree that a Public Fund shall be deemed to have consented for all purposes under this Agreement to the continued management of such Public Fund by the applicable Boston Private Subsidiary following the Effective Time, if a new Advisory Agreement has been approved by the Public Fund Board and shareholders of such Public Fund in the manner contemplated by clauses (A)-(D) of Section 6.18(a)(i), unless at any time prior to the Closing the respective Public Fund Board notifies the applicable Boston Private Subsidiary, in writing, that such Public Fund has terminated its existing, interim, or new Advisory Agreement prior to or following the Effective Time.

(b) Non-U.S. Retail Funds. With respect to any pooled investment vehicle (including each portfolio or series thereof, if any) for which Boston Private or any Boston Private Subsidiary acts as investment adviser, investment sub-adviser, sponsor or manager, and which is registered or authorized by a non-U.S. Governmental Entity in the jurisdiction in which it is established (including in the European Union undertakings for collective investment in transferable securities) (each a "Non-U.S. Retail Fund"), as promptly as practicable following the date of this Agreement, to the extent required by applicable law or the terms of the existing Advisory Agreement with such Non-U.S. Retail Fund, Boston Private shall use its reasonable best efforts, and shall cause each of its Subsidiaries to use their reasonable best efforts to (A) provide notice of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement to such Non-U.S. Retail Fund and, where required by applicable law or the applicable Advisory Agreement, to the investors in such Non-U.S. Retail Fund, and (B) obtain any material approval, consent, deemed approval, deemed consent or other similar action, if any, that is required from or by the board of directors or trustees (or persons performing similar functions) of such Non-U.S. Retail Fund, the investors in such Non-U.S. Retail Fund or any regulating or self-regulating authority for such Non-U.S. Retail Fund, so that, after the Closing, the applicable Advisory Entity may continue to provide Investment Advisory Services to such Non-U.S. Retail Fund following the Closing Date.

(c) Private Funds and Other Non-Fund Clients.

(i) If consent or other action is required by applicable law or by the Advisory Agreement of any advisory client other than a Public Fund or a Non-U.S. Retail Fund for the Advisory Agreement with such advisory client to continue after the Effective Time, as promptly as reasonably practicable following the date of this Agreement, and in any event no less than 30 days before the anticipated Closing Date, Boston Private shall, and shall cause the applicable Boston Private Subsidiaries to, send a notice (a "Transaction Notice") complying with applicable law and the terms of such advisory client's Advisory Agreement. Each Transaction Notice shall inform the applicable advisory client: (1) of the intention to complete the transactions contemplated by this Agreement, which may result in a deemed assignment of such advisory client's Advisory Agreement; (2) of the applicable Boston Private Subsidiary's intention to continue to provide the Investment Advisory Services pursuant to the existing Advisory Agreement with such advisory client after the Effective Time if such advisory client does not terminate such agreement prior to the Effective Time; and (3) that the consent of such advisory client will be deemed to have been granted if such advisory client continues to accept such advisory services for a period of at least 30 days after the sending of the Transaction Notice without termination.

(ii) Boston Private agrees that the information that is contained in any Transaction Notice to be furnished to any advisory client other than a Public Fund or a Non-U.S. Retail Fund (and other than information that is or will be provided in writing by or on behalf of SVB Financial or its affiliates specifically for inclusion in such Transaction Notice) to the extent consent or other action is required under applicable law or the applicable Advisory Agreement for the purpose of having the Advisory Agreement continue after the Effective Time will be true, correct and complete in all material respects.

SVB Financial agrees that the information provided by it or its affiliates (or on their behalves) in writing for inclusion in any Transaction Notice to be furnished to any advisory client other than a Public Fund or a Non-U.S. Retail Fund to the extent consent or other action is required under applicable law or the applicable Advisory Agreement for the purpose of having the Advisory Agreement continue after the Effective Time will be true, correct and complete in all material respects.

(iii) With respect to any pooled investment vehicle (including each portfolio or series thereof, if any) for which Boston Private or any Boston Private Subsidiary acts as investment adviser, investment sub-adviser, sponsor or manager, which is neither a Public Fund nor a Non-U.S. Retail Fund (each a "Private Fund"), Boston Private shall not, and shall cause its Subsidiaries not to, extend the termination date with respect to such Private Fund without prior written consent of SVB Financial. With respect to each such Private Fund, Boston Private shall, and shall cause the applicable Boston Private Subsidiary to, request from each holder of the ownership interests of such Private Fund written consent to commence the liquidation and dissolution of such Private Fund in accordance with such Private Fund's certificate of partnership and limited partnership agreement (or comparable documents), the applicable Advisory Agreement and applicable law; provided, that any such commencement of liquidation and dissolution shall be effective at or after the Closing and, if requested by Boston Private, be made conditional on the Closing. In addition, Boston Private shall cooperate with SVB Financial to take any other actions with respect to such Private Fund that SVB Financial deems reasonably necessary in connection with the liquidation and dissolution of such Private Fund at or after the Closing, including, if requested by SVB Financial, working with SVB Financial to cause the applicable Boston Private Subsidiary to (A) cease serving as the investment adviser, investment sub-adviser, sponsor or manager to such Private Fund at or after the Closing or (B) require any holder of the ownership interests of such Private Fund to withdraw from such Private Fund at or after the Closing, in each case in accordance with such Private Fund's certificate of partnership and limited partnership agreement (or comparable documents), the applicable Advisory Agreement and applicable law.

(d) Prospective Clients. In addition to the foregoing, as promptly as practicable following the date of this Agreement, Boston Private shall cause each Boston Private Subsidiary to use its reasonable best efforts (i) to supplement the offering documentation with respect to each Public Fund, each Non-U.S. Retail Fund and each Private Fund to inform prospective investors therein of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement; and (ii) with respect to any new advisory clients following the date of this Agreement, to include a Transaction Notice along with the Advisory Agreement and other materials provided to such new advisory clients.

(e) For the avoidance of doubt, the receipt of any approval, consent, deemed approval or deemed consent in connection with any of the matters contemplated by this Section 6.18 or otherwise in respect of any Advisory Agreement or similar agreement in connection with Boston Private's or any Boston Private Subsidiary's service as an investment adviser, investment sub-adviser, sponsor, manager or other similar capacity, including any approval of any Public Fund Board or the shareholders of any Public Fund or holders of ownership interests of any Private Fund, shall not be a condition to the obligations of the parties to effect the Merger.

## ARTICLE VII

### CONDITIONS PRECEDENT

7.1 Conditions to Each Party's Obligation to Effect the Merger. The respective obligations of the parties to effect the Merger shall be subject to the satisfaction at or prior to the Effective Time of the following conditions:

(a) Shareholder Approval. This Agreement shall have been approved by the shareholders of Boston Private by the Requisite Boston Private Vote.

(b) NASDAQ Listing. The shares of SVB Financial Common Stock that shall be issuable pursuant to this Agreement shall have been authorized for listing on the NASDAQ, subject to official notice of issuance.

(c) S-4. The S-4 shall have become effective under the Securities Act and no stop order suspending the effectiveness of the S-4 shall have been issued and no proceedings for that purpose shall have been initiated or threatened by the SEC and not withdrawn.

(d) No Injunctions or Restraints; Illegality. No order, injunction or decree issued by any court or agency of competent jurisdiction or other legal restraint or prohibition preventing the consummation of the Merger or the Bank Merger shall be in effect. No statute, rule, regulation, order, injunction or decree shall have been enacted, entered, promulgated or enforced by any Governmental Entity which prohibits or makes illegal consummation of the Merger or the Bank Merger.

(e) Regulatory Approval. (i) All regulatory authorizations, consents, orders or approvals from the Federal Reserve Board, the California Department of Financial Protection and Innovation and the Massachusetts Commissioner of Banks and any other approvals set forth in Sections 3.4 and 4.4 which are necessary to consummate the transactions contemplated by this Agreement, including the Merger and the Bank Merger, shall have been obtained and shall remain in full force and effect and all statutory waiting periods in respect thereof shall have expired (such approvals and the expiration of such waiting periods being referred to herein as the "Requisite Regulatory Approvals"), and (ii) no such Requisite Regulatory Approval shall have resulted in the imposition of any Materially Burdensome Regulatory Condition.

7.2 Conditions to Obligations of SVB Financial. The obligation of SVB Financial to effect the Merger is also subject to the satisfaction, or waiver by SVB Financial, at or prior to the Effective Time, of the following conditions:

(a) Representations and Warranties. The representations and warranties of Boston Private set forth in Section 3.2(a) and Section 3.8(a) (in each case after giving effect to the lead in to Article III) shall be true and correct (other than, in the case of Section 3.2(a), such failures to be true and correct as are de minimis) in each case as of the date of this Agreement and (except to the extent such representations and warranties speak as of an earlier date) as of the Closing Date as though made on and as of the Closing Date, and the representations and warranties of Boston Private set forth in Sections 3.1(a), 3.1(b) (with respect to Boston Private Bank only), 3.2(c) (with respect to Boston Private Bank only) and 3.3(a) (in each case, after giving effect to the lead in to Article III) shall be true and correct in all material respects as of the date of this Agreement and (except to the extent such representations and warranties speak as of an earlier date) as of the Closing Date as though made on and as of the Closing Date. All other representations and warranties of Boston Private set forth in this Agreement (read without giving effect to any qualification as to materiality or Material Adverse Effect set forth in such representations or warranties but, in each case, after giving effect to the lead in to Article III) shall be true and correct in all respects as of the date of this Agreement and (except to the extent such representations and warranties speak as of an earlier date) as of the Closing Date as though made on and as of the Closing Date; provided, however, that for purposes of this sentence, such representations and warranties shall be deemed to be true and correct unless the failure or failures of such representations and warranties to be so true and correct, either individually or in the aggregate, and without giving effect to any qualification as to materiality or Material Adverse Effect set forth in such representations or warranties, has had or would reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on Boston Private or the Surviving Corporation. SVB Financial shall have received a certificate signed on behalf of Boston Private by the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer of Boston Private to the foregoing effect.

(b) Performance of Obligations of Boston Private. Boston Private shall have performed in all material respects the obligations, covenants and agreements required to be performed by it under this Agreement at or prior to the Closing Date, and SVB Financial shall have received a certificate signed on behalf of Boston Private by the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer of Boston Private to such effect.

(c) Federal Tax Opinion. SVB Financial shall have received the opinion of Sullivan & Cromwell LLP, in form and substance reasonably satisfactory to SVB Financial, dated as of the Closing Date, to the

effect that, on the basis of facts, representations and assumptions set forth or referred to in such opinion, the Merger will qualify as a “reorganization” within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Code. In rendering such opinion, counsel may require and rely upon representations contained in certificates of officers of SVB Financial and Boston Private, reasonably satisfactory in form and substance to such counsel.

7.3 Conditions to Obligations of Boston Private. The obligation of Boston Private to effect the Merger is also subject to the satisfaction, or waiver by Boston Private, at or prior to the Effective Time, of the following conditions:

(a) Representations and Warranties. The representations and warranties of SVB Financial set forth in Section 4.2(a) and Section 4.8 (in each case, after giving effect to the lead in to Article IV) shall be true and correct (other than, in the case of Section 4.2(a), such failures to be true and correct as are de minimis) in each case as of the date of this Agreement and (except to the extent such representations and warranties speak as of an earlier date) as of the Closing Date as though made on and as of the Closing Date, and the representations and warranties of SVB Financial set forth in Sections 4.1(a), 4.1(b) (with respect to SVB Bank only), 4.2(b) (with respect to SVB Bank only) and 4.3(a) (in each case, after giving effect to the lead in to Article IV) shall be true and correct in all material respects as of the date of this Agreement and (except to the extent such representations and warranties speak as of an earlier date) as of the Closing Date as though made on and as of the Closing Date. All other representations and warranties of SVB Financial set forth in this Agreement (read without giving effect to any qualification as to materiality or Material Adverse Effect set forth in such representations or warranties but, in each case, after giving effect to the lead in to Article IV) shall be true and correct in all respects as of the date of this Agreement and (except to the extent such representations and warranties speak as of an earlier date) as of the Closing Date as though made on and as of the Closing Date, provided, however, that for purposes of this sentence, such representations and warranties shall be deemed to be true and correct unless the failure or failures of such representations and warranties to be so true and correct, either individually or in the aggregate, and without giving effect to any qualification as to materiality or Material Adverse Effect set forth in such representations or warranties, has had or would reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on SVB Financial. Boston Private shall have received a certificate signed on behalf of SVB Financial by the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer of SVB Financial to the foregoing effect.

(b) Performance of Obligations of SVB Financial. SVB Financial shall have performed in all material respects the obligations, covenants and agreements required to be performed by it under this Agreement at or prior to the Closing Date, and Boston Private shall have received a certificate signed on behalf of SVB Financial by the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer of SVB Financial to such effect.

(c) Federal Tax Opinion. Boston Private shall have received the opinion of Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz, in form and substance reasonably satisfactory to Boston Private, dated as of the Closing Date, to the effect that, on the basis of facts, representations and assumptions set forth or referred to in such opinion, the Merger will qualify as a “reorganization” within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Code. In rendering such opinion, counsel may require and rely upon representations contained in certificates of officers of SVB Financial and Boston Private, reasonably satisfactory in form and substance to such counsel.

## ARTICLE VIII

### TERMINATION AND AMENDMENT

8.1 Termination. This Agreement may be terminated at any time prior to the Effective Time, whether before or after approval of this Agreement by the shareholders of Boston Private:

(a) by mutual consent of SVB Financial and Boston Private in a written instrument, if the Board of Directors of each so determines by a vote of a majority of the members of its entire Board;

(b) by either SVB Financial or Boston Private if any Governmental Entity that must grant a Requisite Regulatory Approval has denied approval of the Merger or the Bank Merger and such denial has become final and nonappealable or any Governmental Entity of competent jurisdiction shall have issued a final nonappealable order, injunction or decree permanently enjoining or otherwise prohibiting or making illegal the consummation of the Merger or the Bank Merger, unless the failure to obtain a Requisite Regulatory Approval shall be due to the failure of the party seeking to terminate this Agreement to perform or observe the covenants and agreements of such party set forth herein;

(c) by either SVB Financial or Boston Private if the Merger shall not have been consummated on or before January 3, 2022 (the “Termination Date”), unless the failure of the Closing to occur by such date shall be due to the failure of the party seeking to terminate this Agreement to perform or observe the covenants and agreements of such party set forth herein;

(d) by either SVB Financial or Boston Private (provided, that the terminating party is not then in material breach of any representation, warranty, obligation, covenant or other agreement contained herein) if there shall have been a breach of any of the obligations, covenants or agreements or any of the representations or warranties (or any such representation or warranty shall cease to be true) set forth in this Agreement on the part of Boston Private, in the case of a termination by SVB Financial, or SVB Financial, in the case of a termination by Boston Private, which breach or failure to be true, either individually or in the aggregate with all other breaches by such party (or failures of such representations or warranties to be true), would constitute, if occurring or continuing on the Closing Date, the failure of a condition set forth in Section 7.2, in the case of a termination by SVB Financial, or Section 7.3, in the case of a termination by Boston Private, as the case may be, and which is not cured within the earlier of the Termination Date and 45 days following written notice to Boston Private, in the case of a termination by SVB Financial, or SVB Financial, in the case of a termination by Boston Private, or by its nature or timing cannot be cured during such period; or

(e) by SVB Financial, prior to such time as the Requisite Boston Private Vote is obtained, if (A) the Board of Directors of Boston Private shall have (i) failed to recommend in the Proxy Statement that the shareholders of Boston Private approve this Agreement, or withdrew, modified or qualified such recommendation in a manner adverse to SVB Financial, or resolved to do so, (ii) failed to reaffirm such recommendation within ten (10) business days after SVB Financial requests in writing that such action be taken, (iii) failed to publicly and without qualification (A) recommend against any Acquisition Proposal or (B) reaffirm the board recommendation within ten (10) business days (or such fewer number of days as remains prior to the Boston Private Meeting) after an Acquisition Proposal is made public or any request by SVB Financial to do so, (iv) adopted, approved, recommended or endorsed an Acquisition Proposal or publicly announced an intention to adopt, approve, recommend or endorse an Acquisition Proposal or (v) publicly proposed to do any of the foregoing or (B) Boston Private or the Boston Private Board of Directors shall have breached its obligations under Section 6.3 or Section 6.9 in any material respect.

The party desiring to terminate this Agreement pursuant to clause (b), (c), (d) or (e) of this Section 8.1 shall give written notice of such termination to the other party in accordance with Section 9.5, specifying the provision or provisions hereof pursuant to which such termination is effected.

## 8.2 Effect of Termination.

(a) In the event of termination of this Agreement by either SVB Financial or Boston Private as provided in Section 8.1, this Agreement shall forthwith become void and have no effect, and none of SVB Financial, Boston Private, any of their respective Subsidiaries or any of the officers or directors of any of them shall have any liability of any nature whatsoever hereunder, or in connection with the transactions contemplated hereby, except that (i) Sections 3.3(a), 3.7, 4.3(a), 4.7, 6.2(b), this Section 8.2 and Article IX shall survive any termination of this Agreement, and (ii) notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this Agreement, neither SVB Financial nor Boston Private shall be relieved or released from any liabilities or damages arising out of its fraud or willful and material breach of any provision of this Agreement.

(b) (i) In the event that after the date of this Agreement a *bona fide* Acquisition Proposal shall have been made known to the Board of Directors or senior management of Boston Private or shall have been made directly to its shareholders generally or any person shall have publicly announced (and not withdrawn) an Acquisition Proposal with respect to Boston Private and (A) thereafter this Agreement is terminated by either SVB Financial or Boston Private pursuant to Section 8.1(c) and Boston Private shall have failed to obtain the Requisite Boston Private Vote at the duly convened Boston Private Meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof at which a vote on the approval of this Agreement was taken or (B) thereafter this Agreement is terminated by SVB Financial pursuant to Section 8.1(d), and (C) prior to the date that is twelve (12) months after the date of such termination, Boston Private enters into a definitive agreement or consummates a transaction with respect to an Acquisition Proposal (whether or not the same Acquisition Proposal as that referred to above), then Boston Private shall, on the earlier of the date it enters into such definitive agreement and the date of consummation of such transaction, pay SVB Financial, by wire transfer of same day funds, a fee equal to \$36,000,000 (the "Termination Fee"); provided, that for purposes of this Section 8.2(b), all references in the definition of Acquisition Proposal to "25%" shall instead refer to "50%".

(ii) In the event that this Agreement is terminated by SVB Financial pursuant to Section 8.1(e) (or this Agreement is terminated pursuant to Section 8.1(c) but at the time of such termination SVB Financial could have terminated this Agreement pursuant to Section 8.1(e)), then Boston Private shall pay SVB Financial, by wire transfer of same day funds, the Termination Fee within two business days of the date of termination.

(c) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, but without limiting the right of any party to recover liabilities or damages arising out of the other party's fraud or willful and material breach of any provision of this Agreement, the maximum aggregate amount of fees payable by Boston Private under this Section 8.2 shall be equal to the Termination Fee. In no event shall Boston Private be required to pay the Termination Fee on more than one occasion.

(d) Each of SVB Financial and Boston Private acknowledges that the agreements contained in this Section 8.2 are an integral part of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement, and that, without these agreements, the other party would not enter into this Agreement; accordingly, if Boston Private fails promptly to pay the amount due pursuant to this Section 8.2, and, in order to obtain such payment, SVB Financial commences a suit which results in a judgment against Boston Private for the Termination Fee or any portion thereof, Boston Private shall pay the costs and expenses of SVB Financial (including reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses) in connection with such suit. In addition, if Boston Private fails to pay the amounts payable pursuant to this Section 8.2, then Boston Private shall pay interest on such overdue amounts (for the period commencing as of the date that such overdue amount was originally required to be paid and ending on the date that such overdue amount is actually paid in full) at a rate per annum equal to the "prime rate" (as announced by JPMorgan Chase & Co. or any successor thereto) in effect on the date on which such payment was required to be made for the period commencing as of the date that such overdue amount was originally required to be paid.

## ARTICLE IX

### GENERAL PROVISIONS

9.1 Nonsurvival of Representations, Warranties and Agreements. None of the representations, warranties, covenants and agreements in this Agreement or in any instrument delivered pursuant to this Agreement (other than the Confidentiality Agreement, which shall survive in accordance with its terms) shall survive the Effective Time, except for Section 6.6 and for those other covenants and agreements contained herein and therein which by their terms apply or are to be performed in whole or in part after the Effective Time.

9.2 Amendment. Subject to compliance with applicable law, this Agreement may be amended by the parties hereto, at any time before or after approval of the matters presented in connection with Merger by the

shareholders of Boston Private; provided, however, that after the approval of this Agreement by the shareholders of Boston Private, there may not be, without further approval of such shareholders, any amendment of this Agreement that requires further approval under applicable law. This Agreement may not be amended, modified or supplemented in any manner, whether by course of conduct or otherwise, except by an instrument in writing specifically designated as an amendment hereto, signed on behalf of each of the parties in interest at the time of the amendment.

9.3 Extension; Waiver. At any time prior to the Effective Time, the parties hereto may, to the extent legally allowed, (a) extend the time for the performance of any of the obligations or other acts of the other parties hereto, (b) waive any inaccuracies in the representations and warranties contained herein or in any document delivered pursuant hereto, and (c) waive compliance with any of the agreements or satisfaction of any conditions contained herein; provided, however, that after approval of this Agreement by the shareholders of Boston Private, there may not be, without further approval of such shareholders, any extension or waiver of this Agreement or any portion thereof that requires further approval under applicable law. Any agreement on the part of a party hereto to any such extension or waiver shall be valid only if set forth in a written instrument signed on behalf of such party, but such extension or waiver or failure to insist on strict compliance with an obligation, covenant, agreement or condition shall not operate as a waiver of, or estoppel with respect to, any subsequent or other failure.

9.4 Expenses. Except (i) with respect to costs and expenses of printing and mailing the Proxy Statement and all filing and other fees paid to the SEC in connection with the Merger, which shall be borne equally by SVB Financial and Boston Private, and (ii) as otherwise provided in Section 8.2, all fees and expenses incurred in connection with this Agreement and the transactions contemplated hereby shall be paid by the party incurring such fees or expenses, whether or not the Merger is consummated.

9.5 Notices. All notices and other communications hereunder shall be in writing and shall be deemed duly given (a) on the date of delivery if delivered personally, or if by email, upon confirmation of receipt, (b) on the first business day following the date of dispatch if delivered utilizing a next-day service by a recognized next-day courier or (c) on the earlier of confirmed receipt or the fifth business day following the date of mailing if delivered by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid. All notices hereunder shall be delivered to the addresses set forth below, or pursuant to such other instructions as may be designated in writing by the party to receive such notice:

(a) if to Boston Private, to:

Boston Private Financial Holdings, Inc.  
10 Post Office Square  
Boston, MA 02109  
Attention: Colleen Graham, General Counsel  
Email: cgraham@bostonprivate.com

*With a copy (which shall not constitute notice) to:*

Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz  
51 West 52nd Street  
New York, NY 10019  
Attention: Edward D. Herlihy & Jacob A. Kling  
Email: EDHerlihy@wlrk.com & JAKling@wlrk.com

and

(b) if to SVB Financial, to:

SVB Financial Group  
3005 Tasman Drive  
Santa Clara, CA 95054  
Attention: Michael Zuckert, General Counsel  
Email: MZuckert@svb.com

*With a copy (which shall not constitute notice) to:*  
Sullivan & Cromwell LLP  
125 Broad Street  
New York, NY 10004  
Attention: H. Rodgin Cohen & Jared M. Fishman  
Email: cohenhr@sullcrom.com & fishmanj@sullcrom.com

9.6 Interpretation. The parties have participated jointly in negotiating and drafting this Agreement. In the event that an ambiguity or a question of intent or interpretation arises, this Agreement shall be construed as if drafted jointly by the parties, and no presumption or burden of proof shall arise favoring or disfavoring any party by virtue of the authorship of any provision of this Agreement. When a reference is made in this Agreement to Articles, Sections, Exhibits or Schedules, such reference shall be to an Article or Section of or Exhibit or Schedule to this Agreement unless otherwise indicated. The table of contents and headings contained in this Agreement are for reference purposes only and shall not affect in any way the meaning or interpretation of this Agreement. Whenever the words “include,” “includes” or “including” are used in this Agreement, they shall be deemed to be followed by the words “without limitation.” References to “the date hereof” shall mean the date of this Agreement. As used in this Agreement, the “knowledge” of Boston Private means the actual knowledge of any of the officers of Boston Private listed on Section 9.6 of the Boston Private Disclosure Schedule, and the “knowledge” of SVB Financial means the actual knowledge of any of the officers of SVB Financial listed on Section 9.6 of the SVB Financial Disclosure Schedule. As used herein, (i) “business day” means any day other than a Saturday, a Sunday or a day on which banks in New York, New York are authorized by law or executive order to be closed, (ii) the term “person” means any individual, corporation (including not-for-profit), general or limited partnership, limited liability company, joint venture, estate, trust, association, organization, Governmental Entity or other entity of any kind or nature, (iii) an “affiliate” of a specified person is any person that directly or indirectly controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with, such specified person and (iv) the term “made available” means any document or other information that was (a) provided by one party or its representatives to the other party and its representatives prior to the date hereof, (b) included in the virtual data room of a party prior to the date hereof or (c) filed by a party with the SEC and publicly available on EDGAR prior to the date hereof. The Boston Private Disclosure Schedule and the SVB Financial Disclosure Schedule, as well as all other schedules and all exhibits hereto, shall be deemed part of this Agreement and included in any reference to this Agreement. All references to “dollars” or “\$” in this Agreement are to United States dollars. This Agreement shall not be interpreted or construed to require any person to take any action, or fail to take any action, if to do so would violate any applicable law.

9.7 Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in two or more counterparts (including by electronic means), all of which shall be considered one and the same agreement and shall become effective when counterparts have been signed by each of the parties and delivered to the other parties, it being understood that all parties need not sign the same counterpart.

9.8 Entire Agreement. This Agreement (including the documents and the instruments referred to herein) together with the Confidentiality Agreement constitutes the entire agreement among the parties and supersedes all prior agreements and understandings, both written and oral, among the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof.

9.9 Governing Law; Jurisdiction.

(a) This Agreement shall be governed and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Delaware, without regard to any applicable conflicts of law (except that matters relating to the fiduciary duties of the Board of Directors of Boston Private shall be subject to the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts).

(b) Each party agrees that it will bring any action or proceeding in respect of any claim arising out of or related to this Agreement or the transactions contemplated hereby exclusively in the Delaware Court of



Chancery and any state appellate court therefrom within the State of Delaware or, if the Delaware Court of Chancery declines to accept jurisdiction over a particular matter, any federal or state court of competent jurisdiction located in the State of Delaware (the "Chosen Courts"), and, solely in connection with claims arising under this Agreement or the transactions that are the subject of this Agreement, (i) irrevocably submits to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Chosen Courts, (ii) waives any objection to laying venue in any such action or proceeding in the Chosen Courts, (iii) waives any objection that the Chosen Courts are an inconvenient forum or do not have jurisdiction over any party and (iv) agrees that service of process upon such party in any such action or proceeding will be effective if notice is given in accordance with Section 9.5.

9.10 Waiver of Jury Trial. EACH PARTY ACKNOWLEDGES AND AGREES THAT ANY CONTROVERSY WHICH MAY ARISE UNDER THIS AGREEMENT IS LIKELY TO INVOLVE COMPLICATED AND DIFFICULT ISSUES, AND THEREFORE EACH SUCH PARTY HEREBY IRREVOCABLY AND UNCONDITIONALLY WAIVES, TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY APPLICABLE LAW, ANY RIGHT SUCH PARTY MAY HAVE TO A TRIAL BY JURY IN RESPECT OF ANY SUIT, ACTION OR OTHER PROCEEDING DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY ARISING OUT OF OR RELATING TO THIS AGREEMENT OR THE TRANSACTIONS CONTEMPLATED BY THIS AGREEMENT. EACH PARTY CERTIFIES AND ACKNOWLEDGES THAT: (I) NO REPRESENTATIVE, AGENT OR ATTORNEY OF ANY OTHER PARTY HAS REPRESENTED, EXPRESSLY OR OTHERWISE, THAT SUCH OTHER PARTY WOULD NOT, IN THE EVENT OF ANY ACTION, SUIT OR PROCEEDING, SEEK TO ENFORCE THE FOREGOING WAIVER, (II) EACH PARTY UNDERSTANDS AND HAS CONSIDERED THE IMPLICATIONS OF THIS WAIVER, (III) EACH PARTY MAKES THIS WAIVER VOLUNTARILY, AND (IV) EACH PARTY HAS BEEN INDUCED TO ENTER INTO THIS AGREEMENT BY, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE MUTUAL WAIVERS AND CERTIFICATIONS IN THIS SECTION 9.10.

9.11 Assignment; Third Party Beneficiaries. Neither this Agreement nor any of the rights, interests or obligations shall be assigned by any of the parties hereto (whether by operation of law or otherwise) without the prior written consent of the other party. Any purported assignment in contravention hereof shall be null and void. Subject to the preceding sentence, this Agreement will be binding upon, inure to the benefit of and be enforceable by the parties and their respective successors and assigns. Except as otherwise specifically provided in Section 6.6, which is intended to benefit each Boston Private Indemnified Party and his or her heirs and representatives, this Agreement (including the documents and instruments referred to herein) is not intended to and does not confer upon any person other than the parties hereto any rights or remedies hereunder, including the right to rely upon the representations and warranties set forth herein. The representations and warranties in this Agreement are the product of negotiations among the parties hereto and are for the sole benefit of the parties. Any inaccuracies in such representations and warranties are subject to waiver by the parties hereto in accordance herewith without notice or liability to any other person. In some instances, the representations and warranties in this Agreement may represent an allocation among the parties hereto of risks associated with particular matters regardless of the knowledge of any of the parties hereto. Consequently, persons other than the parties may not rely upon the representations and warranties in this Agreement as characterizations of actual facts or circumstances as of the date of this Agreement or as of any other date. Except as provided in Section 6.6, notwithstanding any other provision hereof to the contrary, no consent, approval or agreement of any third party beneficiary will be required to amend, modify to waive any provision of this Agreement.

9.12 Specific Performance. The parties hereto agree that irreparable damage would occur if any provision of this Agreement were not performed in accordance with the terms hereof and, accordingly, that the parties shall be entitled to specific performance of the terms hereof, including an injunction or injunctions to prevent breaches of this Agreement or to enforce specifically the performance of the terms and provisions hereof (including the parties' obligation to consummate the Merger), in addition to any other remedy to which they are entitled at law or in equity. Each of the parties hereby further waives (a) any defense in any action for specific performance that

a remedy at law would be adequate and (b) any requirement under any law to post security or a bond as a prerequisite to obtaining equitable relief.

9.13 Severability. Whenever possible, each provision or portion of any provision of this Agreement shall be interpreted in such manner as to be effective and valid under applicable law, but if any provision or portion of any provision of this Agreement is held to be invalid, illegal or unenforceable in any respect under any applicable law or rule in any jurisdiction, such invalidity, illegality or unenforceability shall not affect any other provision or portion of any provision in such jurisdiction, and this Agreement shall be reformed, construed and enforced in such jurisdiction such that the invalid, illegal or unenforceable provision or portion thereof shall be interpreted to be only so broad as is enforceable.

9.14 Confidential Supervisory Information. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, no disclosure, representation or warranty shall be made (or other action taken) pursuant to this Agreement that would involve the disclosure of confidential supervisory information (including confidential supervisory information as defined in 12 C.F.R. § 261.2(c) and as identified in 12 C.F.R. § 309.5(g)(8)) of a Governmental Entity by any party to this Agreement to the extent prohibited by applicable law. To the extent legally permissible, appropriate substitute disclosures or actions shall be made or taken under circumstances in which the limitations of the preceding sentence apply.

9.15 Delivery by Electronic Transmission. This Agreement and any signed agreement or instrument entered into in connection with this Agreement, and any amendments or waivers hereto or thereto, to the extent signed and delivered by e-mail delivery of a “.pdf” format data file, shall be treated in all manner and respects as an original agreement or instrument and shall be considered to have the same binding legal effect as if it were the original signed version thereof delivered in person. No party hereto or to any such agreement or instrument shall raise the use of e-mail delivery of a “.pdf” format data file to deliver a signature to this Agreement or any amendment hereto or the fact that any signature or agreement or instrument was transmitted or communicated through e-mail delivery of a “.pdf” format data file as a defense to the formation of a contract and each party hereto forever waives any such defense.

*[Signature Page Follows]*

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed by their respective officers thereunto duly authorized as of the date first above written.

SVB FINANCIAL GROUP

By: /s/ Greg Becker

Name: Greg Becker

Title: President and Chief Executive Officer

BOSTON PRIVATE FINANCIAL HOLDINGS, INC.

By: /s/ Anthony DeChellis

Name: Anthony DeChellis

Title: Chief Executive Officer and President

[Signature Page to Agreement and Plan of Merger]

**EXHIBIT A**  
**FORM OF BANK MERGER AGREEMENT**

**FORM OF AGREEMENT AND PLAN OF MERGER OF  
SILICON VALLEY BANK AND BOSTON PRIVATE BANK & TRUST COMPANY**

This Agreement and Plan of Merger (this “Agreement”), dated as of [●], is made by and between Silicon Valley Bank, a California-chartered commercial bank (“SVB Bank”), and Boston Private Bank & Trust Company, a Massachusetts-chartered trust company (“Boston Private Bank”).

**WITNESSETH:**

**WHEREAS**, SVB Bank is a California-chartered commercial bank, all the issued and outstanding capital stock of which is owned as of the date hereof directly by SVB Financial Group, a Delaware corporation (“SVB Financial”);

**WHEREAS**, Boston Private Bank is a Massachusetts-chartered trust company, all the issued and outstanding capital stock of which is owned as of the date hereof directly by Boston Private Financial Holdings, Inc., a Massachusetts corporation (“Boston Private”);

**WHEREAS**, SVB Financial and Boston Private have entered into an Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of January 4, 2021 (as amended and/or supplemented from time to time, the “Merger Agreement”), pursuant to which, subject to the terms and conditions thereof, Boston Private will merge with and into SVB Financial, with SVB Financial surviving the Merger as the surviving corporation (the “Merger”);

**WHEREAS**, contingent upon the Merger, on the terms and subject to the conditions contained in this Agreement, the parties to this Agreement intend to effect the merger of Boston Private Bank with and into SVB Bank, with SVB Bank surviving the merger (the “Bank Merger”); and

**WHEREAS**, the board of directors of SVB Bank and the board of directors of Boston Private Bank deem the Bank Merger desirable and in the best interests of their respective banks, and have authorized and approved the execution and delivery of this Agreement and the transactions contemplated hereby.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in consideration of the premises and of the mutual agreements herein contained, the parties hereto do hereby agree as follows:

**ARTICLE I**

**CONSTITUENT ENTITIES**

Section 1.01 SVB Bank and Boston Private Bank shall be the constituent entities with respect to the Bank Merger.

**ARTICLE II**

**BANK MERGER**

Section 2.01 The Merger. Subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement, effective as of the Effective Time (as defined below), Boston Private Bank shall be merged with and into SVB Bank in accordance with Section 4880 et seq. of the California Financial Code (“CFC”), and with the effect provided in Section 4889 of the CFC and Section 1107 of the California General Corporation Law. At the Effective Time (as defined below), the separate existence of Boston Private Bank shall cease, and SVB Bank, as the surviving institution (the “Surviving Bank”), shall continue unaffected and unimpaired by the Bank Merger. All assets of Boston

Private Bank as they exist at the Effective Time of the Bank Merger shall pass to and vest in the Surviving Bank without any conveyance or other transfer. The Surviving Bank shall be responsible for all of the liabilities of every kind and description of each of the merging banks existing as of the Effective Time, including all deposits, accounts, debts, obligations and contracts thereof, matured or unmatured, whether accrued, absolute, contingent or otherwise, and whether or not reflected or reserved against on balance sheets, books of account or records thereof. Immediately following the Effective Time, the Surviving Bank shall continue to operate the main office and each of the branches of Boston Private Bank existing as of the Effective Time as branches of the Surviving Bank at the officially designated address of each such office or branch, as listed in Annex A hereto, and shall continue to operate each of the branches of the Surviving Bank existing at the Effective Time, in each case without limiting the authority under applicable law of the Surviving Bank to close, relocate or otherwise make any change regarding any such branch.

Section 2.02 Closing. The closing of the Bank Merger will take place by electronic exchange of documents following the Merger or at such other time and date as specified by the parties hereto, but in no case prior to the Merger or the date on which all of the conditions precedent to the consummation of the Bank Merger specified in this Agreement shall have been satisfied or duly waived by the party entitled to satisfaction thereof.

Section 2.03 Effective Time. The Bank Merger shall become effective following the effective time of the Merger when all of the conditions precedent to the consummation of the Bank Merger specified in this Agreement shall have been satisfied or duly waived by the party entitled to satisfaction thereof (such date and time being herein referred to as the “Effective Time”).

Section 2.04 Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. The articles of incorporation and bylaws of SVB Bank in effect immediately prior to the Effective Time shall be the articles of incorporation and the bylaws of the Surviving Bank, in each case until amended in accordance with applicable law and the terms thereof.

Section 2.05 Board of Directors and Officers. The directors and officers of SVB Bank, in each case, immediately prior to the Effective Time shall, at and after the Effective Time, be the directors and officers, respectively, of the Surviving Bank, such individuals to serve in such capacity until such time as their successors shall have been duly elected or appointed and qualified or until their earlier death, resignation or removal from office.

Section 2.06 Name and Main Office. The name of the Surviving Bank shall be “Silicon Valley Bank” and the main office of the Surviving Bank shall be at 3003 Tasman Drive, Santa Clara, California 95054.

Section 2.07 Tax Treatment. It is the intention of the parties hereto that the Bank Merger be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes as a “tax free reorganization” pursuant to Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

### ARTICLE III

#### TREATMENT OF SHARES

Section 3.01 Effect on Boston Private Bank Capital Stock. By virtue of the Bank Merger and without any action on the part of the holder of any capital stock of Boston Private Bank, at the Effective Time, all shares of Boston Private Bank capital stock issued and outstanding shall be automatically cancelled and retired and shall cease to exist, and no cash, new shares of common stock, or other property shall be delivered in exchange therefor.

Section 3.02 Effect on SVB Bank Capital Stock. Each share of SVB Bank capital stock issued and outstanding immediately prior to the Effective Time shall remain issued and outstanding and unaffected by the Bank Merger and shall immediately after the Effective Time constitute all of the issued and outstanding capital stock of the Surviving Bank.

#### ARTICLE IV

##### COVENANTS

Section 4.01 During the period from the date of this Agreement and continuing until the Effective Time, subject to the provisions of the Merger Agreement, each of the parties hereto agrees to use all reasonable efforts to take, or cause to be taken, all actions and to do, or cause to be done, all things necessary, proper or advisable under applicable laws and regulations to consummate and make effective the transactions contemplated by this Agreement.

#### ARTICLE V

##### CONDITIONS PRECEDENT

Section 5.01 The Bank Merger and the respective obligations of each party hereto to consummate the Bank Merger are subject to the fulfillment or written waiver of each of the following conditions prior to the Effective Time:

- a. The approval of (i) the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, (ii) the Massachusetts Commissioner of Banks and (iii) the California Department of Financial Protection and Innovation, in each case with respect to the Bank Merger, shall in each case have been obtained and shall be in full force and effect; and all other material approvals and authorizations of, filings and registrations with, and notifications to, all governmental authorities required for the consummation the Bank Merger shall have been obtained or made and shall be in full force and effect, and all statutory waiting periods required by law shall have expired or been terminated.
- b. The parties shall have received any necessary regulatory approval to establish and operate branches at the main office and branches of Boston Private Bank as branches of the Surviving Bank.
- c. This Agreement shall have been adopted by the sole stockholder of each of SVB Bank and Boston Private Bank.
- d. The Merger shall have been consummated in accordance with the terms of the Merger Agreement.
- e. No jurisdiction or governmental authority shall have enacted, issued, promulgated, enforced or entered any statute, rule, regulation, judgment, decree, injunction or other order (whether temporary, preliminary or permanent) which is in effect and prohibits or makes illegal consummation of the Bank Merger.

#### ARTICLE VI

##### FURTHER DOCUMENTS

Section 6.01 If at any time the Surviving Bank shall reasonably require that any further deeds, assignments, conveyances or assurances in law are necessary or desirable to vest, perfect or confirm of record in the Surviving Bank the title to any property or rights of the constituent entities as of the Effective Time, the proper officers and directors of SVB Bank as of the Effective Time and the proper officers and directors of Boston Private Bank, as of the Effective Time, and thereafter the directors and officers of the Surviving Bank acting on behalf of Boston Private Bank, shall execute and deliver any and all proper deeds, assignments, conveyances and assurances in law, and do all things necessary or desirable, to vest, perfect or confirm title to such property or rights in the Surviving Bank and otherwise to carry out the provisions hereof.

## ARTICLE VII

### TERMINATION AND AMENDMENT

Section 7.01 Termination. This Agreement may be terminated at any time prior to the Effective Time by an instrument in writing executed by each of the parties hereto. This Agreement will terminate automatically upon the termination of the Merger Agreement. In the event of termination of this Agreement as provided in this Section 7.01, this Agreement shall forthwith become void and have no effect.

Section 7.02 Amendment. This Agreement may not be amended, except by an instrument in writing signed on behalf of each of the parties hereto.

## ARTICLE VIII

### GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 8.01 Representations and Warranties. Each of the parties hereto represents and warrants that this Agreement has been duly authorized, executed and delivered by such party and (assuming due authorization, execution and delivery by the other party) constitutes a valid and binding obligation of such party, enforceable against it in accordance with the terms hereof (except in all cases as such enforceability may be limited by bankruptcy, insolvency, moratorium, reorganization or similar laws of general applicability affecting the rights of creditors generally and the availability of equitable remedies).

Section 8.02 Nonsurvival of Agreements. None of the agreements in this Agreement or in any instrument delivered pursuant to this Agreement shall survive the Effective Time.

Section 8.03 Notices. All notices and other communications in connection with this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be deemed given if delivered personally, sent via email (with confirmation), mailed by registered or certified mail (return receipt requested) or delivered by an express courier (with confirmation) to the parties at the following addresses (or at such other address for a party as shall be specified by like notice):

If to Boston Private Bank, to:

Boston Private Financial Holdings, Inc.  
10 Post Office Square  
Boston, MA 02109  
Attention: Colleen Graham, General Counsel  
Email: cgraham@bostonprivate.com

with a copy (which shall not constitute notice) to:

Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz  
51 West 52nd Street  
New York, NY 10019  
Attention: Edward D. Herlihy & Jacob A. Kling  
Email: EDHerlihy@wlrk.com & JAKling@wlrk.com

If to SVB Bank, to:

SVB Financial Group  
3005 Tasman Drive  
Santa Clara, CA 95054  
Attention: Michael Zuckert, General Counsel  
Email: MZuckert@svb.com



with a copy (which shall not constitute notice) to:

Sullivan & Cromwell LLP  
125 Broad Street  
New York, NY 10004  
Attention: H. Rodgin Cohen & Jared M. Fishman  
Email: cohenhr@sullcrom.com & fishmanj@sullcrom.com

Section 8.04 Interpretation. The words “hereof,” “herein” and “hereunder” and words of similar import when used in this Agreement shall refer to this Agreement as a whole and not to any particular provision of this Agreement, and section references are to this Agreement unless otherwise specified. The headings contained in this Agreement are for reference purposes only and shall not affect in any way the meaning or interpretation of this Agreement.

Section 8.05 Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in two (2) or more counterparts (including by electronic means), all of which shall be considered one and the same agreement and shall become effective when counterparts have been signed by each of the parties and delivered to the other party, it being understood that each party need not sign the same counterpart.

Section 8.06 Entire Agreement. This Agreement (including any exhibits thereto, the documents and the instruments referred to in this Agreement) constitutes the entire agreement and supersedes all prior agreements and understandings, both written and oral, between the parties hereto with respect to the subject matter of this Agreement, other than the Merger Agreement.

Section 8.07 Governing Law. This Agreement shall be governed and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of California applicable to agreements made and to be performed wholly within such state, except to the extent that the federal laws of the United States shall be applicable hereto.

Section 8.08 Assignment. Neither this Agreement nor any of the rights, interests or obligations may be assigned by any of the parties hereto and any attempted assignment in contravention of this Section 8.08 shall be null and void.

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**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed in counterparts by their duly authorized officers as of the day and year first above written.

**BOSTON PRIVATE BANK & TRUST COMPANY**

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By:  
Title:

**SILICON VALLEY BANK**

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By:  
Title:

ANNEX A

**Offices of Boston Private Bank**

[to be inserted]